



bw broadcast

# DSPXmini-AM



## Broadcast Audio Processor

Operational Manual  
Version 1.01

[www.bwbroadcast.com](http://www.bwbroadcast.com)

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## **WARRANTY**

BW Broadcast warrants the mechanical and electronic components of this product to be free of defects in material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the original date of purchase, in accordance with the warranty regulations described below. If the product shows any defects within the specified warranty period that are not due to normal wear and tear and/or improper handling by the user, BW Broadcast shall, at its sole discretion, either repair or replace the product.

If the warranty claim proves to be justified, the product will be returned to the user freight prepaid.

Warranty claims other than those indicated above are expressly excluded.

### **Return authorisation number**

To obtain warranty service, the buyer (or his authorized dealer) must call BW Broadcast during normal business hours BEFORE returning the product. All inquiries must be accompanied by a description of the problem. BW Broadcast will then issue a return authorization number.

Subsequently, the product must be returned in its original shipping carton, together with the return authorization number to the address indicated by BW Broadcast. Shipments without freight prepaid will not be accepted.

### **Warranty regulations**

Warranty services will be furnished only if the product is accompanied by a copy of the original retail dealer's invoice. Any product deemed eligible for repair or replacement by BW Broadcast under the terms of this warranty will be repaired or replaced within 30 days of receipt of the product at BW Broadcast.

If the product needs to be modified or adapted in order to comply with applicable technical or safety standards on a national or local level, in any country which is not the country for which the product was originally developed and manufactured, this modification/adaptation shall not be considered a defect in materials or workmanship. The warranty does not cover any such modification/adaptation, irrespective of whether it was carried out properly or not. Under the terms of this warranty, BW Broadcast shall not be held responsible for any cost resulting from such a modification/adaptation.

Free inspections and maintenance/repair work are expressly excluded from this warranty, in particular, if caused by improper handling of the product by the user. This also applies to defects caused by normal wear and tear, in particular, of faders, potentiometers, keys/buttons and similar parts.

Damages/defects caused by the following conditions are not covered by this warranty:

Misuse, neglect or failure to operate the unit in compliance with the instructions given in BW Broadcast user or service manuals.

Connection or operation of the unit in any way that does not comply with the technical or safety regulations applicable in the country where the product is used.

Damages/defects caused by force majeure or any other condition that is beyond the control of BW Broadcast.

Any repair or opening of the unit carried out by unauthorized personnel (user included) will void the warranty.

If an inspection of the product by BW Broadcast shows that the defect in question is not covered by the warranty, the inspection costs are payable by the customer.

Products which do not meet the terms of this warranty will be repaired exclusively at the buyer's expense. BW Broadcast will inform the buyer of any such circumstance. If the buyer fails to submit a written repair order within 6 weeks after notification, BW Broadcast will return the unit C.O.D. with a separate invoice for freight and packing. Such costs will also be invoiced separately when the buyer has sent in a written repair order.

### **Warranty transferability**

This warranty is extended exclusively to the original buyer (customer of retail dealer) and is not transferable to anyone who may subsequently purchase this product. No other person (retail dealer, etc.) shall be entitled to give any warranty promise on behalf of BW Broadcast.

### **Claims for damages**

Failure of BW Broadcast to provide proper warranty service shall not entitle the buyer to claim (consequential) damages. In no event shall the liability of BW Broadcast exceed the invoiced value of the product.

### **Other warranty rights and national law**

This warranty does not exclude or limit the buyer's statutory rights provided by national law, in particular, any such rights against the seller that arise from a legally effective purchase contract. The warranty regulations mentioned herein are applicable unless they constitute an infringement of national warranty law.

## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**CAUTION:** To reduce the risk of electrical shock, do not remove the cover. No user serviceable parts inside. refer servicing to qualified personnel.



**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or electrical shock, do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture.



This symbol, wherever it appears, alerts you to the presence of uninsulated dangerous voltage inside the enclosure—voltage that may be sufficient to constitute a risk of shock.



This symbol, wherever it appears, alerts you to important operating and maintenance instructions in the accompanying literature. Read the manual.

### DETAILED SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS:

All the safety and operation instructions should be read before the appliance is operated.

#### Retain Instructions:

The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.

#### Heed Warnings:

All warnings on the appliance and in the operating instructions should be adhered to.

#### Follow instructions:

All operation and user instructions should be followed.

#### Water and Moisture:

The appliance should not be used near water (e.g. near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool etc.).

The appliance should not be exposed to dripping or splashing and objects filled with liquids should not be placed on the appliance.

#### Ventilation:

The appliance should be situated so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. For example, the appliance should not be situated on a bed, sofa rug, or similar surface that may block the ventilation openings, or placed in a built-in installation, such as a bookcase or cabinet that may impede the flow of air through the ventilation openings.

#### Heat:

The appliance should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other appliance (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

#### Power Source:

The appliance should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the appliance.

#### Grounding or Polarization:

Precautions should be taken so that the grounding or polarization means of an appliance is not defeated.

#### Power-Cord Protection:

Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords and plugs, convenience receptacles and the point where they exit from the appliance.

#### Cleaning:

The appliance should be cleaned only as recommended by the manufacturer.

#### Non-use Periods:

The power cord of the appliance should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.

**Object and Liquid Entry:**

Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through openings.

**Damage Requiring Service:**

The appliance should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:

- The power supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or
- Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the appliance; or
- The appliance has been exposed to rain; or
- The appliance does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or
- The appliance has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.

**Servicing:**

The user should not attempt to service the appliance beyond that is described in the Operating Instructions. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

**CE CONFORMANCE:** This device complies with the requirements of the EEC Council Directives: 93/68/EEC (CE Marking); 73/23/EEC (Safety – low voltage directive); 2004/108/EC (electromagnetic compatibility). Conformity is declared to those standards: EN50081-1, EN50082-1.



**WARNING:** This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy. If not installed and used in accordance with the instructions in this manual it may cause interference to radio communications. It has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A computing device (pursuant to subpart J of Part 15 FCC Rules), designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference when operated in a commercial environment. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause interference, at which case, the user, at his own expense, will be required to take whatever measures may be required to correct the interference.



**CANADA WARNING:** This digital apparatus does not exceed the Class A limits for radio noise emissions set out in the Radio Interference Regulations of the Canadian Department of Communications. Le présent appareil numérique n'émet pas de bruits radioélectriques dépassant les limites applicables aux brouillages radioélectrique édicté par le ministère des Communications de Canada.

## **FORWARD**

Thank you for your purchase of the DSPXmini-AM digital audio broadcast processor.

Over the last decade the staff at BW have observed broadcast processors from afar with fascination and intrigue and shared a keen interest in digital audio processing. In January 2002 we decided on a whim that it was time to have a go at designing our own digital audio processor. We knew that if we were going to design an audio processor we had to do it the BW way and make the processor the most cost effective fully featured all-in-one broadcast processor on the planet. We knew we didn't have the decades of processing experience that the other manufacturers had but what we did have was a desire to research the project for as long as necessary to get the job done. We also knew that by combining the research with BW's embedded systems skills and ability to manufacture low-cost cutting edge products we would ensure that the DSPX would be a winner. The one aim, to make an audio processor that offered all of the features found in the other more costly processors but at a fraction of the price.

Why DSPX? Like most products the concept is conceived, nameless. The name DSPX came about for several reasons. Firstly the BW team couldn't decide on a name we liked so the concept became DSP processor X. As the project developed it soon became clear that the processor was to be a processor for all broadcast seasons and so in true algebraic fashion X represents many things. DSPX was born.

Once again, thank you for your purchase; we hope you enjoy the DSPXmini-AM!

## **BW Broadcast Team**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE DSPXmini-AM

The BW Broadcast DSPXmini-AM is a new generation of digital audio signal processor that can be used to process audio for AM broadcasting. Using the latest multi-band DSP technology the DSPXmini-AM offers a versatile and powerful tool in creating a loud and intelligible on-air presence.

What's Under the Lid?

The DSPXmini-AM is driven by a fast 8 bit micro-controller which controls an array of specialised analogue and digital circuits. These include 24-bit A/D and D/A converters, analogue level control circuitry, 6 x 24 bit DSP's, an ethernet port, a trigger port, an RS232 port, an LCD screen and memory devices to hold the software and firmware.

The Processing Architecture

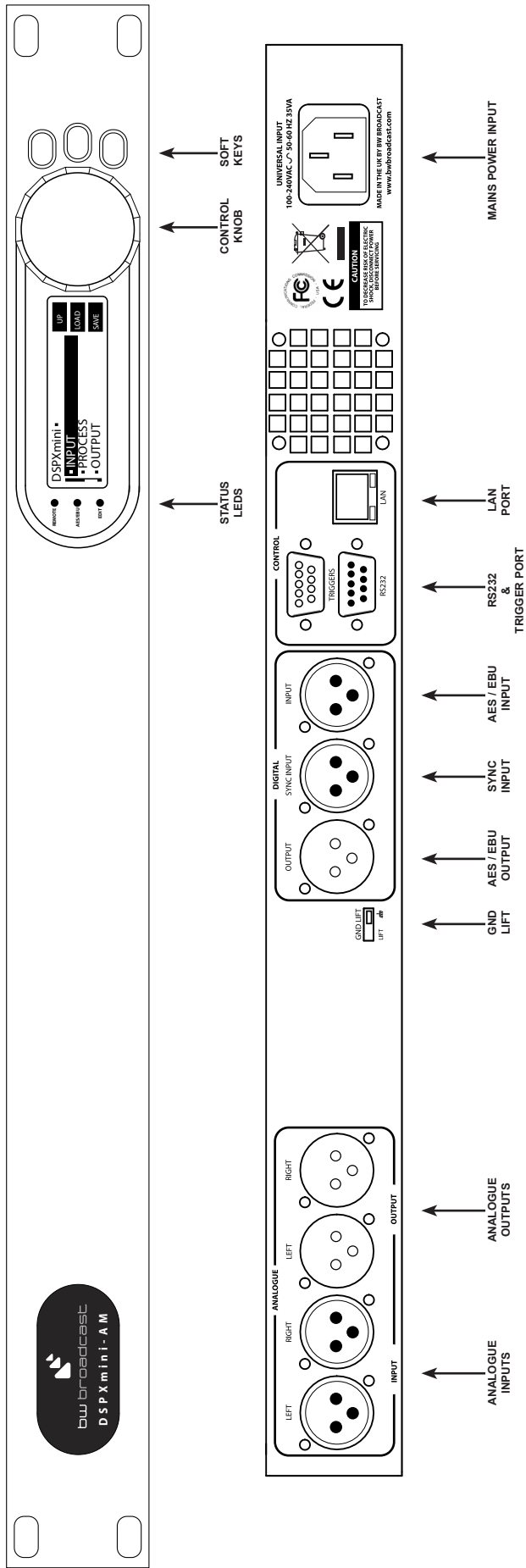
After input selection the 24-bit digital audio signal is passed through conditioning circuitry before being split to four bands by a phase matched crossover. Each band is processed by multiband RMS leveller which corrects for input level variations and also improves consistency. Each band is further processed by intelligent audio limiter. The following distortion cancelling clipping ensures your signal is kept to a strict maximum while maintaining clear sound.

The easy to use front panel control system with LCD afford the user with ease of use and setup.

Comprehensive control of every processing parameter is available to the user both from the front panel control system and by remote (computer) control.

At a fraction of the size, weight and price of its rivals, the DSPXmini-AM is small but serious AM processor.

**Dynamic, fresh & innovative...**  
**... The DSPXmini-AM**



## DSPXmini-AM FRONT AND REAR PANELS



## DSPXmini-AM METERING

The DSPXmini-AM metering is accesable at any time by pressing the middle soft key on the front panel. It shows instant IO meters as well as all processing metering.

### I/O metering

The input meters show the level of the input audio. The meters are 'hooked in' to the DSP code after the input level selection and mode options.

The output meters represent the level in dB below full scale output. This output level is the peak output level of the processing and has nothing to do with the actual output level set by the analogue and digital output level options.

The output meters show a smaller dynamic range compared to the input ones. This reflects the smaller dynamic range of the audio once processed by the DSPXmini-AM. If we were to have used the same scale as the input metering we would not see a lot of activity on the bars.

The IO meters follows an approximation of the PPM level of the audio waveform. Please notice that if you are using asymmetrical clipping, the output meters won't reflect the asymmetry. They always show levels up to 100% modulation.

### Multi-band AGC

The first four gain reduction meters show the gain reduction of the multi-band AGC. The range shown is -21dB to +21dB in 3dB steps.

There is only one meter per stereo channel and the value shown is the largest gain reduction of the left and right channels. Under normal operation (with a stereo audio feed) this is fine but you may observe strange metering if the channels are not very balanced in level.

### Multi-band limiter

The second four gain reduction meters show the gain reduction of the multi-band limiter. The range shown is 0dB to -22.5dB in 1.5dB steps.

There is only one meter per stereo channel and the value shown is the largest gain reduction of the left and right channels. Under normal operation (with a stereo audio feed) this is fine but you may observe strange metering if the channels are not very balanced in level.

## STATUS LEDS

The DSPXmini-AM front panel contains three status LEDS.

**REMOTE:** Indicates that the DSPXmini-AM is currently talking to a remote computer. This will flash during an update of the firmware or remote control with the remote control application.

REMOTE ●

**AES/EBU:** Indicates the presence of a valid AES/EBU signal connected to the digital audio input of the DSPXmini-AM.

AES/EBU ●

**EDIT:** Indicates that you are currently editing a parameter

EDIT ●

## QUICK START

1. Install the DSPXmini-AM into the rack.
2. Connect AC power to the unit, and turn on the power.
3. Connect the analogue or digital audio input.
4. Select the analogue or digital input as the source of the processing with the 'INPUT SELECTION' parameter which can be found in the 'INPUT' menu. Apply audio and observe the input meters. For analogue inputs, adjust the 'INPUT' menu's 'INPUT LEVEL CONTROL' so that the input meters do not clip. We recommend setting the mixing board or audio source to full level output (even clipping) prior to adjusting this control. This ensures that the processor's A/D converter will not clip under any conditions. Optionally, select mono options (L, R, L+R).
5. Connect the audio outputs as required and set the output level settings for the analogue and digital outputs to match any external links or transmitters that require left and right audio inputs or an AES/EBU input.

You can use the built-in tone generator to set the output levels. Navigate to Oscillator in the Output menu, set it to Sine, set the Amplitude to 60% and adjust Analog Out Level until your transmitter reads 50% modulation (the 10% difference is to account for possible overshoots in the transmission).

6. Select a factory preset (see Managing presets).
7. Navigate to 'OUTPUT' menu and adjust the low-pass filter setting as required. This sets the occupied bandwidth of the AM transmission.
8. Navigate to 'INPUT' menu and adjust the high-pass filter setting.
9. You're on the air!

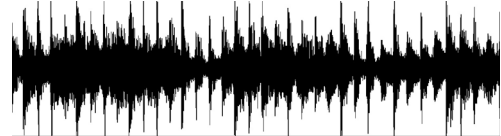
Further information on each parameter is contained in the 'menu structure' and 'setting up the processing' sections of this manual.

# INTRODUCTION TO AUDIO PROCESSING

Most audio processors use a combination of compression, limiting and clipping to 'funnel' the dynamic range down, reducing the peak to average ratio in each stage. A cascaded arrangement of compressor, limiter and clipper produces the best results. The first stage of processing usually operates in a slow manner, the processing getting progressively faster and more aggressive as the audio passes through the chain. The instantaneous peak clipper or look-ahead limiter is the final stage of the chain and sets the final peak level.

The images below illustrate a section of audio as it passes through a typical audio processor.

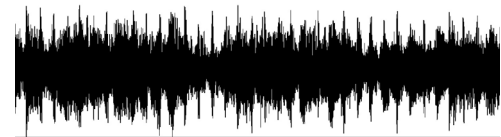
The first image to the right is an unprocessed section of audio.



The images that follow represent compression of the input waveform, followed by limiting and then finally peak clipping.

## Compression

Compression reduces the dynamic range of the audio waveform slowly in a manner similar to a trained operator riding the gain. Compression is usually performed on the RMS level of the audio waveform and the ratio of compression is usually adjustable. Compression is usually gated to prevent gain riding and suck-up of noise during silence or quiet periods.



## Limiting

Limiting is a faster form of compression that employs faster time constants and higher ratios to produce a denser sound while controlling peaks based upon the peak level of the audio waveform. Excessive limiting can create a busier packed wall of sound effect.



## Clipping

Clipping the audio waveform will not produce any audible side effects if performed in moderation. Excessive clipping will produce a form of distortion that produces a tearing or ripping sound. Clipping can also be used as an effective method of high frequency peak control when used in conjunction with distortion controlling filtering.



## Look-ahead limiting

Often used instead of a clipper in systems that feed bit rate reducing audio codecs, look-ahead limiting examines the audio waveform and prepares a gain control signal in advance of the delayed audio waveform arriving. This prevents overshoots while minimising distortion. A look-ahead limiter behaves in the same way as a soft clipper. Competent look-ahead limiters will usually be of the multi-band variety.

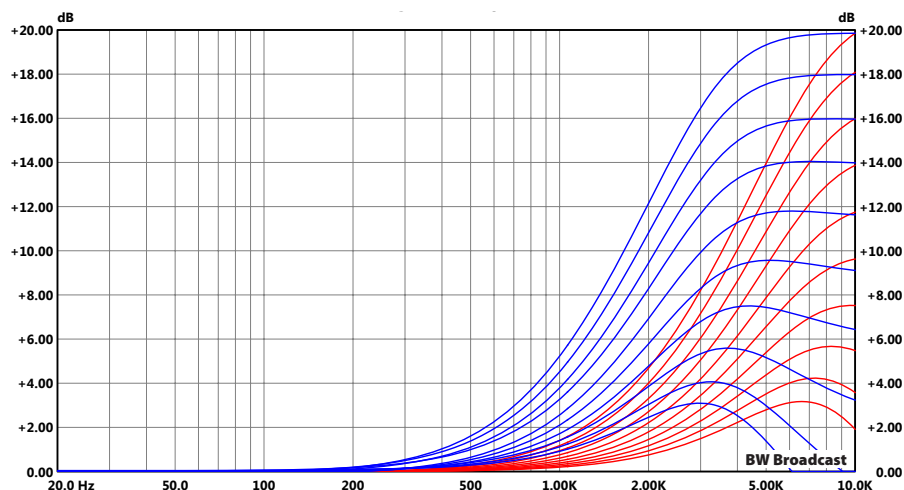
## SOURCE MATERIAL QUALITY

The DSPXmini-AM has the ability to substantially improve the quality of your ON-AIR broadcast. However the DSPXmini-AM can only work with what you provide it. The best performance will be obtained when the DSPXmini-AM is fed with very clean source material. After dynamic range reduction is performed, poor quality source material will sound poorer when processed with the DSPXmini-AM.

We strongly advise against the use of MP3's and other compressed audio formats for audio storage. If you must use compressed audio we advise rates of 256 kbps and higher, but linear formats are always to be preferred. Compressed audio formats employ frequency masking data reduction techniques to reduce the bit-rate. Through re-equalisation the DSPXmini-AM can violate the frequency masking characteristics of the bit reduction process, creating distortion that was inaudible prior to the DSPXmini-AM processing.

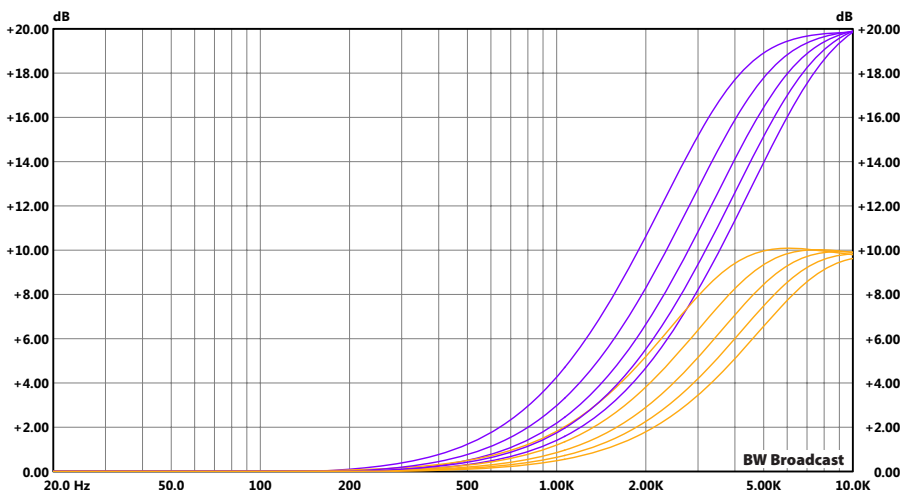
## HF BOOST (PRE-EMPHASIS)

Today's typical AM receivers have narrow bandwidth (typically 3 kHz) and it is usually beneficial to compensate for the high-end roll-off by boosting the high frequencies in the processor. This can help restore some of the high-end response and brightness. The DSPXmini-AM has an HF equalizer that can provide as much as 20 dB of high end boost. The graph below illustrates pre-emphasis curves in 2 dB steps. The blue curves show the response with the shape control set to 1, and the red ones show the response with the shape control set to 10.



HF boost curves (varying HF Gain from 2 to 20 dB, blue HF Shape=1, red HF Shape=10)

The HF curve can be shifted slightly lower or higher in frequency, with a shape control. Illustrated below are curves at 10 dB and 20 dB gain, with the HF shape control varied from 1 to 9 in steps of 2. To provide NRSC-1 pre-emphasis, the HF Gain should be set to 10 dB and the HF Shape to 8.

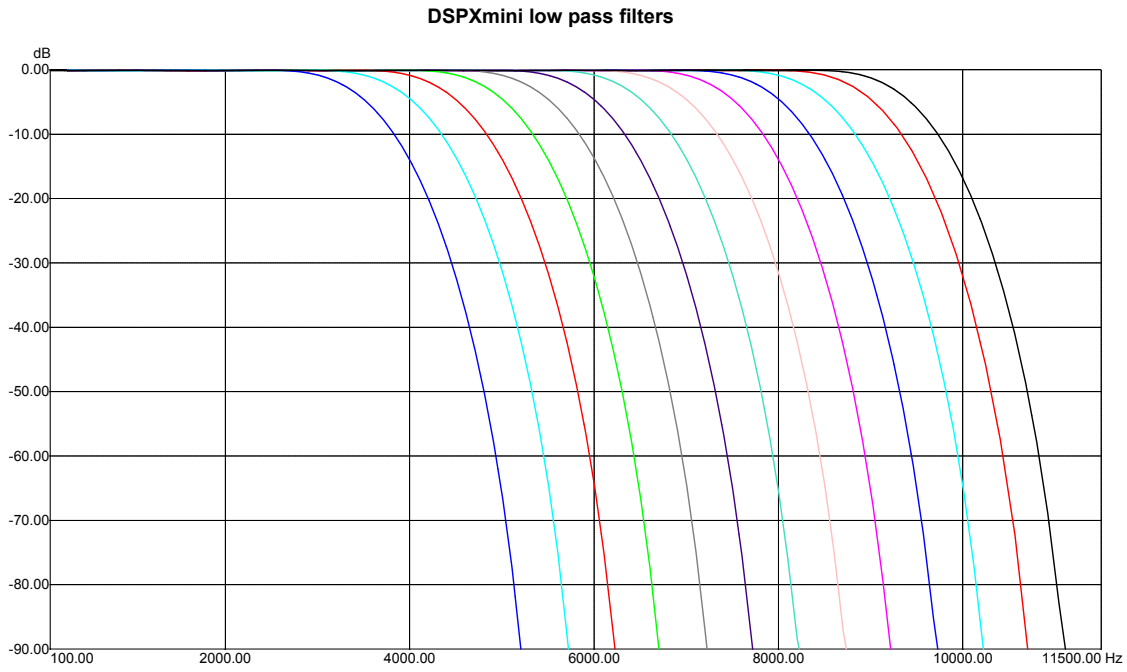


HF boost curves (varying HF Shape from 1 to 9; violet 20 dB gain, orange 10 dB gain)

Source quality and HF boost (pre-emphasis)

## LOW PASS FILTERING

To accommodate various bandwidth limitation requirements in different countries, the DSPXmini-AM has an adjustable low pass filter. The filter is adjustable from 4 kHz to 10 kHz in 500 Hz steps. To comply with the NRSC-1 standards (10 kHz bandwidth for analog AM, 8 kHz bandwidth for Hybrid AM IBOC or 5 kHz bandwidth for Hybrid AM IBOC transmission) set the filter to 10 kHz, 7.5 kHz and 4 kHz respectively. The graph below shows all the low pass filter curves. You can use it to determine the correct setting for the required bandwidth (or mask) in your country.



**Low pass filter curves: 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5 and 10 kHz**

# THE DSPXmini-AM AND ITS PROCESSING STRUCTURE

The DSPXmini-AM broadcast audio processor is intended to be used for processing audio prior to broadcast on AM. It employs distortion controlled clippers to limit the peaks of the signal. Distortion controlled clipping produces harmonic distortion which if used moderately can produce a very loud sound but can result in a ripping or tearing sound if used excessively (overdriven).

The AM path is also low-pass filtered, to provide bandwidth limitation as required for AM broadcasting.

## THE PROCESSING PATH

### Input selection and conditioning

The DSPXmini-AM offers the user input selection (analog or digital input), stereo or mono (L, R or L+R) operation and high pass filter selection.

### Bass enhancement

The DSPXmini-AM offers a bass enhancement via peaking filter that can be set to provide up to 6dB of gain on one of four frequencies with a choice of 4 Q's. This can be thought of as a simple bass parametric.

### Xover

The DSPXmini-AM employs phase matched filters to split the audio spectrum into 4 bands while maintaining sonic transparency.

### Multi-band AGC

The DSPXmini-AM processes each band with RMS based levellers. Each bands gain control processing function can be configured in different manners to provide different effects. Adjustable timing constants, drive and gating afford the user with full control of this important re-equalisation stage of the processor.

### Multi-band limiters

Each band has its own dynamic peak limiter. Complex algorithm is used to intelligently adapt to program audio and control it in a natural way. Dual time constants are adjustable as well as input drives.

### Mixer

The four bands are mixed together at this stage, allowing overall EQ adjustment.

### Bass clipper

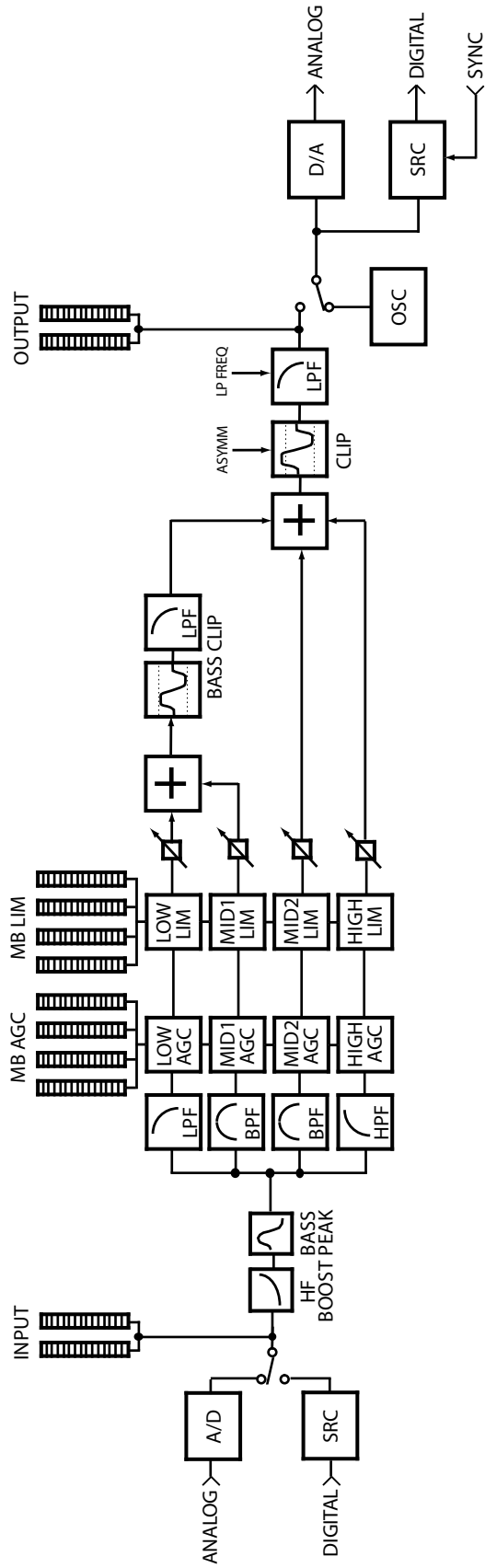
The DSPXmini-AM peak limits (clips) and filters the low frequencies before being fed to the final clipper stages.

### Distortion controlled clipper

The DSPXmini-AM main clipper uses sophisticated algorithms to produce tightly peak controlled output and control the distortion.

### Output processing

The DSPXmini-AM output has an adjustable low-pass filter to comply with NRSC, ITU-R and other standards, tilt equalization to compensate for a non-DC path in the transmitter and a tone generator to facilitate set-up and alignment.



DSPX mini-AM PROCESSING BLOCK DIAGRAM

## **MENU SYSTEM OVERVIEW**

This section presents an overview of the four main menus and their submenus and any parameters that are contained in them.

**INPUT:** Contains all the controls that affect input selection, level control and signal conditioning.

**PROCESS:** Contains all the controls that affect the processing.

**OUTPUT:** Contains all the controls that affect output selection, level control and signal conditioning.

**SCHEDULE:** Contains all the real time clock controls for switching presets (Dayparting).

**SYSTEM:** Contains all the system controls (non processing) such as remote control and security.



# MENU STRUCTURE

## MENU: INPUT

- INPUT SOURCE
- ANALOG LEVEL
- RIGHT TRIM
- MODE
- HP FILTER

## MENU: PROCESS

### MENU: EQ

- PEAKING BASS GAIN
- PEAKING BASS FREQ
- PEAKING BASS Q
- HF SHAPE
- HF GAIN

### MENU: MULTI-BAND AGC

#### MENUS: BANDS 1-4

- DRIVE
- ATTACK
- DECAY
- GATE

### MENU: MULTI-BAND LIMITERS

#### MASTER LIMITER DRIVE

##### BAND 1

- DRIVE
- LIMITER ATTACK
- LIMITER DECAY
- COMPRESSOR ATTACK
- COMPRESSOR DECAY

##### BAND 2

- DRIVE
- LIMITER ATTACK
- LIMITER DECAY
- COMPRESSOR ATTACK
- COMPRESSOR DECAY

##### BAND 3

- DRIVE
- LIMITER ATTACK
- LIMITER DECAY
- COMPRESSOR ATTACK
- COMPRESSOR DECAY

##### BAND 4

- DRIVE
- LIMITER ATTACK
- LIMITER DECAY
- B3>B4 COUPLING
- HF CLIPPING

### MENU: MIXER

- BAND 1 MIX LEVEL
- BAND 2 MIX LEVEL
- BAND 3 MIX LEVEL
- BAND 4 MIX LEVEL

### MENU: CLIPPERS

- BASS CLIP
- MAIN CLIP DIST CTRL
- FINESSE
- HARDNESS
- MAIN CLIP DRIVE

## MENU: OUTPUT

- LP FILTER
- TILT EQ
- TILT FREQ
- ASYMMETRY
- POLARITY
- ANALOG OUT LEVEL

### MENU: TONE GENERATOR

- OSCILLATOR
- FREQUENCY
- AMPLITUDE
- ANALOG OUT LEVEL

### MENU: DIGITAL

- DIGITAL LEVEL
- SAMPLING RATE

## MENU: SCHEDULE

(X) REPRESENTS 0-7

- TIME
- DAYPARTING ON/OFF
- TIME CALIBRATION
- DAYPARTS 1-4

- DP(X) ON/OFF
- DP(X) START TIME
- DP(X) TIME ON (LENGTH)

## DAYPARTS 5-8

- DP(X) ON/OFF
- DP(X) START TIME
- DP(X) TIME ON (LENGTH)

## MENU: SYSTEM

- LCD CONTRAST
- TRIGGER PORT
- CODE LOCK
- REMOTE SOURCE
- MENU: LAN CONFIG
- IP
- DG (DEFAULT GATEWAY)
- SM (SUBNET)
- MA1 (MAC ADDRESS PART1)
- MA2 (MAC ADDRESS PART2)
- PORT

### MENU: ABOUT

- VERSION
- CONCEPT
- HARDWARE
- CONTROL SYSTEM
- PROCESSING
- REMOTE APPLICATION

### BOOTLOAD

# PROCESSING PARAMETERS

The **'INPUT'** menu contains options relating to the control and conditioning of the audio inputs.

**'INPUT SOURCE'** This parameter allows you to select between the analog and digital inputs as the source for the processing.

**'ANALOGUE INPUT A/D CLIP LEVEL'** This parameter allows you to set the analogue input level with reference to the DSPXmini-AM's A/D Converter. This would normally be set to +24dBu if driving the DSPXmini-AM from professional audio equipment. When adjusting make sure that the input audio meters NEVER show clipping under any conditions.

**'RIGHT TRIM':** This parameter allows you to adjust the right channels gain in small increments to BALANCE out any small gain discrepancies between the left and right channels. The range is +/- 3dB.

**'MODE':** This parameter allows you to select different mono options as well as the default stereo option. There is also the ability to swap the left/right channels.

**'HIGH PASS FILTER'** This parameter allows you to select from a variety of high pass filters. You can select from 20 Hz, 30 Hz, 40 Hz, 50 Hz and 60 Hz. You also have the ability to bypass the high pass filter with the 'OFF' option. The high pass filter can be used to reduce rumble or can be effective in removing low frequency energy that most AM receivers can't reproduce. We suggest you set the high pass filter to 30 Hz.

The **'PROCESS'** menu allows access to all of the processing blocks that make up the DSPXmini-AM. There are only sub-menus inside the **'PROCESS'** menu. The submenus are laid out in the same configuration as the signal path through the DSPXmini-AM.

The **'EQ'** menu contains the low frequency enhancement filters which are used to provide bass enhancement and high frequency equalizer to provide high-end boost (pre-emphasis).

**'PEAKING BASS EQUALIZER'** A pseudo parametric style bass equalizer control that allows you to sweet tune the bass. Four frequencies, amplitudes and Q's are provided giving you 64 different bass curves to select from. Frequencies selectable: 60 Hz, 76 Hz, 95 Hz and 120 Hz. Q's selectable: 0.4, 1, 2 and 4. Gains selectable: 0 dB, 1.5 dB, 3 dB, 4.5 dB, 6 dB.

**'HF SHAPE'** Shifts the HF boost curve lower (values towards 1) or upper (values towards 10) in frequency. Lower numbers refer to lower frequencies and will boost more mid frequencies as well as the high frequencies. Higher numbers refer to higher frequencies and will put more emphasis on the higher frequencies than on the mid frequencies.

**'HF GAIN'** Adjusts the high frequency gain from 0 dB (no high-end boost) up to 20 dB. Some high-end boost might be beneficial to compensate for the typical receiver high-end roll off. However, excessive high-end boost will be counteracted by the B4 AGC levelling action.

The **'MULTI-BAND AGC'** is designed to re-equalize the program material and create a consistent tonal balance while maintaining a consistent output level based on the RMS level of the program material.

**'B1-4'**

**'DRIVE'** Controls the drive into the AGC. 0dB drive corresponds to a gain reduction of 0dB, the mid-way point. The drive can be increased or decreased by up to 12dB. You may need to increase the drive a little as you go up through the bands to compensate for the fact that music has less energy in the higher frequency spectrum compared to low frequencies.

**'ATTACK'** Controls the attack rate of the AGC, The time the AGC takes to respond to an increase of input level. The attack time can be varied between 1 and 10 which corresponds to 100mS to 10S on a semi-exponential scale.

**'DECAY'** Controls the release/decay rate of the AGC, the time the AGC takes to respond to a decrease of input level. The DECAY time can be varied between 1 and 10 which corresponds to 100mS to 30S on a semi-exponential scale.

**'GATE THRESHOLD'** The gate function prevents 'suck-up' of noise during periods of silence or low

level audio. The level can be adjusted to turn on when the input drops to a level from -20dB to -40dB. The gate can also be switched off or forced on. The gate when turned on will cause the gain reduction to move towards the resting 0dB level

The **'MULTI-BAND LIMITERS'** peak limit each of the bands to prevent distortion in the processors clipping peak control system.

**'MASTER LIMITER DRIVE'** Sets the drive into the multi-band limiter. This control allows a -6dB to +12dB adjustment.

#### **'B1-3'**

**'DRIVE'** Controls the drive into the limiter. The drive can be increased or decreased by up to 6dB.

**'PEAK ATTACK'** Controls the attack rate of the limiter, the time the limiter takes to respond to an increase of input level. The attack time can be varied between 1 (fast) and 10 (slow).

**'PEAK DECAY'** Controls the peak release/decay rate of the limiter, the time the limiter takes to respond to a decrease of input level. The DECAY time can be varied between 1 (fast) and 10 (slow).

**'AVG ATTACK'** Controls the average attack rate of the limiter. The attack time can be varied between 1 (fast) and 10 (slow). The AVG attack control determines the dynamics of the dual time constant system and how audio control is shared between the peak and average circuits.

**'AVG DECAY'** Controls the average release/decay rate of the limiter, the time the limiter takes to respond to a decrease of input level. The DECAY time can be varied between 1 (fast) and 10 (slow).

B4 limiter instead of AVG ATTACK and AVG DECAY parameters uses the following parameters:

**'B3>B4 COUPLING'** Ties the band 4 average gain reduction to the band's 3 average platform level. When this control is set to 100% the average gain reduction of the band 4 will be exactly the same as the gain reduction of the band 3 (the fast peak limiting time constant is still operating independently). When this control is set to 0% there is no average gain reduction control and the fast peak time constant is the only one controlling the level in the band 4.

**'HF CLIPPING'** Negotiates the control of the high frequencies between limiting and clipping. When the control is set towards 0, high end is predominately controlled by band 3 and 4 limiting. When the control is set towards 17, high end is mostly controlled by clipping. The latter might give more brilliance, but will also generate more high-end distortion.

**'MIXER'** menu. Each band can be adjusted over a small range to provide small EQ changes. These controls are limited in range to prevent excessive drive into the peak clipping stages and excess distortion being introduced.

**BAND1MIX:** -3dB to +3dB of level adjustment is available.

**BAND2MIX:** -3dB to +3dB of level adjustment is available.

**BAND3MIX:** -3dB to +3dB of level adjustment is available.

**BAND4MIX:** -3dB to +3dB of level adjustment is available.

The **'CLIPPER'** menu contains the clipping controls that form the final peak limiting stages of the DSPXmini-AM.

**'BASSCLIP'** Controls the clip level of the mix of Bands 1 and 2. The clip level range is -6dB to 0dB referenced to the main clippers output level.

**'MAIN CLIPPER DISTORTION CONTROL'** Controls the distortion reduction effect of the distortion controller in the DSPXmini-AM's back-end clipping system. The range of multi-band clipping control is 1 to 10. Setting this control to 1 virtually defeats the mechanism, while higher numbers will progressively make the mechanism work on reducing the distortion and keeping the cleanliness of your on-air sound.

**'MAIN CLIPPER FINESSE'** Another distortion controlling mechanism that helps to reduce IMD in the final clipper. The range is 1-10 with 10 producing the most distortion control. A setting of 1 effectively bypass-

es this control. This control is very subtle and may not appear to do a lot on some program material while a lot on others. The best way to set this control is to overdrive the main clipper to hear the effect of this control and then back the drive back down after the finesse control is set to your taste.

**'MAIN CLIP DRIVE'** Controls the drive into the main output clipper that defines the systems peak clipping ceiling. Adjustable over a -6dB to +6dB range.

**The 'OUTPUT' menu contains all of the options and parameters relating to the control and conditioning of the audio outputs.**

**'LP FILTER'** Controls the AM output low pass filter frequency. Frequency can be adjusted from 4 kHz to 10 kHz in 0.5 kHz steps. This parameter sets the bandwidth of your AM transmission. To comply with the NRSC 10 kHz bandwidth for analog AM, NRSC 8 kHz bandwidth Hybrid AM IBOC or NRSC 5 kHz bandwidth Hybrid AM IBOC, set the frequency to 10 kHz, 7.5 kHz and 4 kHz respectively.

**'TILT EQ'** This is the subsonic equalizer that allows you to compensate for the non-DC path in the transmitter and reduce overshoots. The control sets the gain of the filter. The range is 0 to 10 dB in 0.1 dB steps.

**'TILT FREQ'** This parameter sets the frequency of the tilt equalizer. Frequencies available are from 5 to 50 Hz in 5 Hz steps.

**'ASYMMETRY'** Sets the asymmetry of the DSPX's clipping systems. Allows the positive peaks to be clipped at the higher threshold than the negative peaks. The range is 100% (symmetrical clipping) up to 150% positive in 1% steps. Negative peaks are always clipped at 100%.

**'POLARITY'** Flips the polarity of the AM output signal. If there is a signal/phase inversion in the wiring, STL, etc. resulting in the transmitter being modulated with more negative peaks than positive when Asymmetry control is set away from 100%, this control can be used to easily fix the problem.

**'ANALOG OUTPUT LEVEL'** Controls the output level of the analogue output. Range is -22 dBu to +14 dBu.

The **'TONE GENERATOR'** menu contains all the controls relevant to the tone generator/oscillator.

**'OSCILLATOR'** Turns the oscillator ON or OFF and selects tone type. When turned on, overrides outputs with the oscillator signal. The oscillator signal can be selected between sine wave and square wave.

**'FREQUENCY'** This parameter sets the frequency of the sine/square wave. The values are 50, 100, 200, 400 and 1000 Hz.

**'AMPLITUDE'** Sets the oscillator output amplitude, relative to 100% modulation. When this parameter is set to 100%, the oscillator output level equals to 100% modulation level. The range available is from 10% to 120% in 10% steps.

**'ANALOG OUTPUT LEVEL'** Controls the output level of the analogue output. Range is -22 dBu to +14 dBu. This is the same control (they are tied) as in the main OUTPUT section, it is just provided here to ease setting up the correct output level.

The **'DIGITAL'** menu contains the controls relevant to the AES/EBU digital outputs.

**'DIGITAL OUTPUT LEVEL'** Controls the peak output level of the digital output. Range is -12dBfs to 0dBfs.

**'SAMPLE RATE'** This parameter sets the output sampling rate for the AES/EBU digital output. The available rates are 32, 44.1, 48 kHz, follow digital input rate and follow external sync rate.

**The 'SCHEDULE' menu contains all the controls for the dayparting (REAL TIME CLOCK) preset switching.**

**'TIME'** Sets the time and day of the DSPXmini-AM's Real Time Clock.

**'DAYPARTING ON/OFF'** Enables or disables the scheduling.

**'DP(X) ON/OFF'** Enables or disables an individual daypart schedule.

**'DP(X)'** Sets the preset to switch to when this daypart is triggered.

**'DP(X) START'** Sets the start time day and time of the daypart. There is also an 'ALL days' option.

**'DP(X) LENGTH'** Sets the length in minutes that the daypart will run for.

The **'SYSTEM'** menu contains all the system controls (non processing) such as remote control and security

**'LCD CONTRAST'** Sets the contrast of the front panel LCD screen. The range is 0 to 25

**'TRIGGER PORT'** This enables or disables the rear panel trigger (remote) port. The options are enabled and disabled. More information is available in the trigger port section of this manual.

**'CODE LOCK'** This enables or disables the security code lock. The options are enabled and disabled. More information is available in the code lock section of this manual.

**'OUTPUT LOCK'** This enables or disables the output code lock. The options are enabled and disabled. More information is available in the code lock section of this manual.

**'REMOTE SOURCE'** This selects the serial or the NET/LAN port as the remote control method. The default option is Off.

The **'LAN CONFIG'** menu contains the controls relevant to the LAN/NET port.

**'IP'** Sets the IP address of the LAN port

**'DG'** Sets the default gateway of the LAN port

**'SM'** Sets the subnet mask of the LAN port

**'MA1'** Sets the first half of the MAC address of the LAN port

**'MA2'** Sets the second half of the MAC address of the LAN port

**'PORT'** Sets the port number of the LAN port

**'ABOUT'** DSPXmini-AM version number and design credits.

**'BOOTLOAD'** This option is used to FLASH update the software and firmware inside the DSPXmini-AM. Further information on using this option is described in the documentation supplied with the upgrade.

## SETTING UP THE PROCESSING ON THE DSPXmini-AM

This section has more detailed information on setting up the DSPXmini-AM's processing.

### High pass filter

The high-pass filter has five selectable cut off frequencies and a bypass option. Modern AM transmitters can accommodate low frequencies, however older AM transmitters may suffer from AFC bounce and overshoot when driven with high levels of very low frequency bass. If your transmitter suffers from this phenomenon you may need to turn your modulation down to accommodate these overshoots. The high-pass filter in the DSPX can cure this problem by removing the very low frequency content from the program material.

Additionally, a lot of AM receivers can't handle low frequencies (<30 Hz) properly and may produce distortion. Another reason is that this very low frequency bass can dominate the band 1 AGC and limiter, especially after bass enhancement has been carried out. The low frequency shelving filters used in processors have much higher gains at 20 Hz than say 50 Hz where most people can here and speakers reproduce bass. The processing stages will respond to this amplified 20 Hz content even though most people won't ever hear it when listening to your radio station.

Taking everything into account we recommend setting the filter to 30 Hz (or higher if necessary).

### Bass enhancement

The frequency contouring effect of multi-band audio processors often leaves the bass lacking a little. The summation of the bands tends to give a boost to the presence frequencies and leaves the bass sounding a little thin. This effect can be compensated somewhat by enhancing the bass prior to multi-band processing.

The DSPXmini-AM has a pseudo parametric style bass equalizer control that allows you to sweet tune the bass. Four frequencies, amplitudes and Q's are provided giving you 64 different bass curves to select from. Frequencies selectable: 60Hz, 76Hz, 95Hz and 120Hz. Q's selectable: 0.4, 1, 2 and 4. Gains selectable: 0, 1.5dB, 3dB, 4.5dB, 6dB. A starting setting of 95Hz, Q of 1 and gain of 4.5dB warms the bass up quite nicely but you are free to experiment to get the bass sound you're after.

### Multi-band AGC

The multi-band AGC in the DSPXmini-AM employs an RMS based level detector for superior performance. This enables the DSPXmini-AM to control input level variations based on the true loudness of the input waveform unlike other simpler average responding peak detectors used in other digital audio processors. When you couple the advanced detector with the user adjustable and hidden intelligent controls you really do have a powerful levelling tool.

The Multi-band AGC stage of the DSPX has two main functions.

1. To re-equalise the program material to provide a consistent tonal balance and sonic signature.
2. To prevent excessive limiting by the following peak limiter stages.

Because of the RMS based level detectors the multi-band AGC can re-equalise the sound in a more natural manner than the peak limiter stages which use peak detectors. As the human ear works on average loudness rather than peak level the re-equalised audio will sound more natural when dynamic range reduction is performed by RMS based level detectors.

Because the peak to average ratio of the program material can be quite wide it is still necessary to control the peaks of the audio with the multi-band limiters but unlike most other audio processors the bulk of the work has been performed by the multi-band AGC and the limiters can be fed with a more controlled level allowing them to operate in their sweet spot.

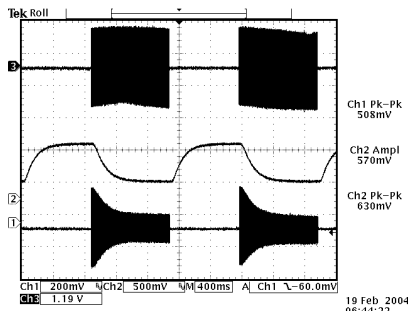
Over the course of the next few pages we have included several scope shots clearly illustrating the input and output of the single band AGC together with the AGC control signal. The effect of the control signal is clearly evident on the output audio waveform. These scope shots help to visually illustrate the concepts under discussion. The multi-band AGC stage is designed so that a 0VU input level to the processor will drive the multi-band AGC to the midway resting level of 0dB.

Individual drive controls are provided as a way of equalizing the audio before processing. This can be used to add a touch of more presence or bass. Keep in mind that the multi-band AGC by it's very nature will tend to compensate any cut or boost you make here.

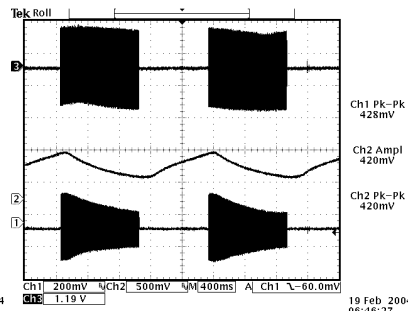
The attack and decay times of the AGC have a range of 1-10 and this corresponds to time constants of 100mS to 30S. We suggest an attack somewhere in the region of 3-4 and a decay setting of 1 or 2 positions higher than

that.

### The effects of time constant speeds



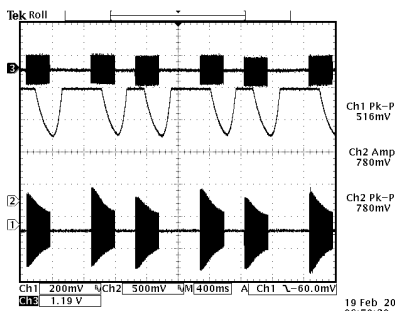
AGC attacking and decaying with faster time constants



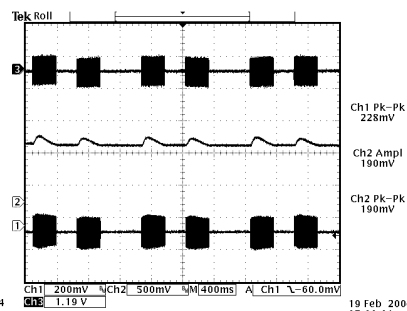
AGC attacking and decaying with slower time constants

Like most competent audio processors the AGC stages in the DSPXmini-AM are gated. This slows down the release time of the multi-band AGC when the program material drops below a certain level. This prevents noise suck up and gain hunting from occurring during quiet periods or lulls in the audio. The DSPXmini-AM allows adjusting the gate level over a range of -20dB to -40dB. This is the level at which the program material must fall below for the gate to become active. The gate level control has two more options, OFF and ON. OFF is self explanatory and prevents the gate from having any effect. ON is often referred to in this manual as 'forced gating' as it has the effect of switching the gate on at all times with any level of program material. This option is used to bypass the AGC.

### The effects of gating



AGC attacking and decaying with gating disabled



AGC attacking and decaying but with gating enabled

Under gated conditions, the gain reduction will slowly move to average gain the AGC had in the recent past. This preserves the frequency balance of program material when multi-band AGC is gated.

### Multi-band limiters

The multi-band limiter drive can be adjusted over a +/- 12dB range. Increasing the drive will increase the level of limiting and with it on air loudness. Above a certain level of drive no more loudness will be obtained and all that will happen is you will generate higher levels of IM distortion and the sound will take on a busy packed texture. You may also observe higher levels of high frequency noise when the band 3 and 4 drives are increased. We don't usually find much use for drives above +6dB but more may be required if other settings are adjusted to compensate. In any case, observe the peak limiter meters for a good indication of how much drive to use. We don't recommend more than 9dB of gain reduction especially on bands 2, 3 and 4. Gain reductions of 2-6dB are a good compromise between loudness and quality.

The multi-band limiters in the DSPXmini-AM are of the dual time constant variety. There is an attack and decay to handle the peaks and an attack and decay to handle the average level of limiting. Understanding how the two time constants interact is imperative if you want to make major changes to how each bands limiter reacts. We have included some scope screen captures to illustrate things a little clearer. The peak and average function can clearly be seen in the images.

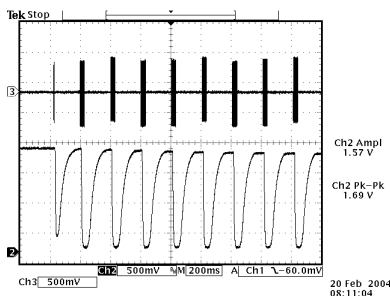
Traditionally audio limiters have two time constants, an attack, the time it takes the limiter to respond to a signal above the threshold and a decay or release which is the time it takes to respond to a drop in level. In a traditional audio limiter the attack time is usually set to somewhere in the region of a few milliseconds and the decay time considerably longer at somewhere in the hundreds of milliseconds. This is not the most optimum solution because transients that last only a few milliseconds will reduce the level of the waveform for hundreds of mil-



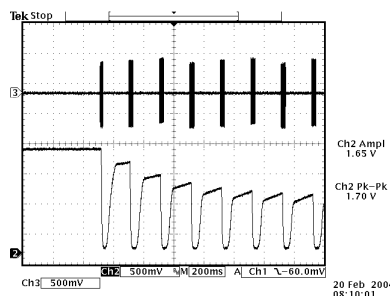
liseconds, reducing loudness and creating audible pumping effects.

The solution is multiple time constants where one set of time constants can be set to handle the fast peaks and another to handle the average level of limiting. Fast transients will release in a faster less noticeable way and won't punch holes in the sound in a way that single time constant limiters can. The secondary slower time constant circuit will not have much effect on the audio waveform when hit with a transient because the higher attack time, generally in the hundreds of milliseconds will not allow a build up of energy. In the case of a sustained envelope of audio above the threshold the multiple time constant will attack as normal with the peak time constant but the sustained energy will also charge the secondary slower circuit. When the audio energy falls away and the circuit goes into release the peak decay will dominate until it reaches a point where it hands over to the slower secondary time constant for a slower rate of decay. The illustrations show this to good effect, where transients have a fast release but multiple or sustained transients build up energy in the secondary circuit which acts as a platform for the peak to release to. The secondary circuit's platform can be thought of as the average level of limiting. Having this fast peak responding circuit ride on top of the average circuit creates many advantages, limiter transparency, less chance of pumping and greater loudness. By setting the time constants appropriately we can have the multiple time constant based detectors work as peak handling, average handling or the optimum setting of a balance of the two.

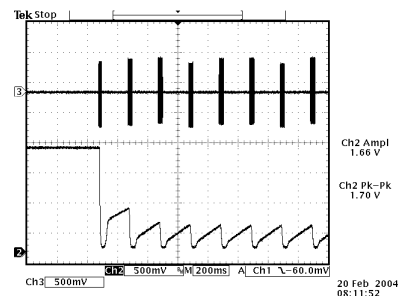
#### Limiter control signals response to tone bursts



Peak time constants dominating control due to a very high setting of average attack

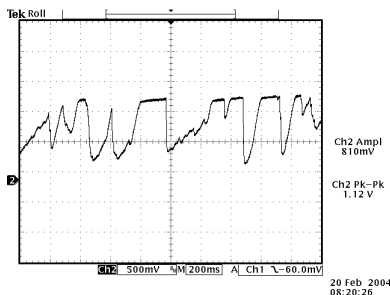


Peak time constants dominating to a lesser degree due to high setting of average attack

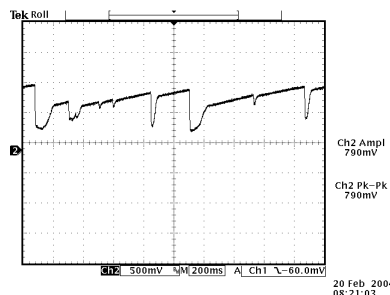


Peak time constants dominating to a much lesser degree due to a lower setting of average attack

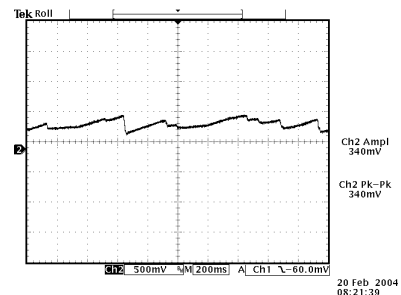
#### Limiter control signals response to program material



Peak time constants dominating control due to a very high setting of average attack



Peak time constants dominating to a lesser degree due to a high setting of average attack



Peak time constants dominating to a much lesser degree due to a lower setting of average attack

The peak attack time should be set to the desired attack time required from that limiter. The range is 1-10 which corresponds to 1 to 200mS on an exponential scale. The peak decay time should be set to the desired peak decay time required for transients. The range is 1-10 which corresponds to a decay time of 10 to 1000mS.

The average attack time is perhaps the most important control in the dual time constant detector as it sets the balance between peak and average energy in the detector. With smaller numbers more energy is transferred into the average circuit and a higher platform level is created so more time will be spent releasing at the slower average rate. Higher numbers offer slower attack times for the averaging part of the detector and this has the effect of lowering the average platform level and allowing the peak part of the circuit to dominate with its faster release times.

The average decay time can usually be viewed as the nominal release time of the detector, similar to a standard single time constant limiters release time.

To recap, the peak attack time and average decay time play the same sort of role as that of a standard conventional single time constant based limiter. The peak decay time sets the decay time for fast usually inaudible



transients and the average attack time sets the ratio of peak to average control and defines the position of the platform that the peak circuit releases to.

### **The mixer**

The post limiters mixer in the DSPXmini-AM is not strictly a mixer but a band output level control where small EQ changes can be made.

Be careful when making large EQ changes at this stage because there is no peak control prior to the clipping system. It is easy to overload the clipping stages by setting these controls all to large positive values. The control range for each band of +/- 3dB is purposely restricted for the above reasons.

### **Bass clipping**

Most competent processors have a bass-clipper prior to the final clipper. The purpose of the bass-clipper is to keep low frequency energy to a pre-determined level to allow for the summation of the other bands. Without the bass-clipper the bass signal can push the mid and HF audio waveforms into the final clipper creating audible IM distortion, the worst type of distortion. By restricting the bass to a certain level the mid and HF energy has its own reserved space in the summated waveform and we reduce the likelihood of bass generated IM distortion.

The downside to bass clipping is you are restricting the bass to a lesser level than what it would be without it. The upside is that moderate levels of bass clipping won't cause a large loss of bass loudness and should have minimal audible artefacts.

When bass-clipper is being driven more aggressively you will start to notice generated distortion. This distortion can be used to actually give the illusion of more bass, especially on smaller radios that are incapable of producing the lower frequency fundamental bass waveform. This can be viewed as an upside of bass clipping. You need to decide what level of bass clipping is acceptable to your format, both in creating room for summation from the other bands and making the punch/distortion trade-off.

### **The final clipper**

The final clipper, used in the AM processing path is a sophisticated highly over-sampled peak limiter that incorporates distortion controlling techniques and has an embedded adjustable low-pass filter. This section of processing is the last line of defence in the processing and is also the most critical part as regarding the loudness/quality trade-off. While each of the proceeding processing stages play a part in reducing the peak to average ratio of the audio waveform none has the same effect on the peak to average ratio as the final clipper.

Great care is needed in setting the final clipper drive control. This control needs to be adjusted carefully and only you can make the decision on the balance between loudness and quality. As you increase the drive you will obviously obtain more loudness but at the expense of distortion. There is a fine line between artistic distortion and distortion that your listeners will find uncomfortable to listen to especially for extended periods of time. We also suggest that you make final clipper drive adjustments in tandem with the multi-band clipper drive as what is taken from or added from one can usually be made up for with the other.

The final clipper now has an additional control to help reduce IMD distortion. This clipper finesse control is an additional program dependent mechanism that helps to reduce distortion by analysing the amount the level of IMD distortion and attempting to lower it by controlling how much the low frequencies can push the higher frequencies into the clipper. The control is very subtle and its range has been limited to restrict the amount of control preventing pumping and loss of loudness which would undo what we want to use the clipper for, gaining loudness.

You may not notice the effect of this control on all program material. When adjusting the clipper finesse control we recommend that you turn the final clipper drive up past the point that you have it set at. This will make the effect of the finesse control much more obvious and allow you to find the setting that sounds best for your format. Once the clipper finesse control is set you can back down the final clipper drive to the point that sounds best knowing that the clipper finesse control has been set correctly to help keep the distortion down on difficult program material.

### **Low pass filter**

To comply with the bandwidth requirements of the AM transmission, the DSPXmini-AM has an adjustable low-pass filter. This low pass filter is tightly integrated in the processing stages and provides full protection with all international standards (masks). The frequency of the filter is user adjustable over a wide range - from 4 kHz to 10 kHz in 0.5 kHz steps. If you need to comply with the NRSC 10 kHz bandwidth for analog AM transmission mask, set the filter to 10 kHz. To comply with the NRSC 8 kHz bandwidth for analog portion of Hybrid AM IBOC transmission, you need to set the filter to 7.5 kHz. To comply with the NRSC 5 kHz bandwidth for analog portion of Hybrid AM IBOC transmission, you need to set the filter to 4 kHz.

If other bandwidth requirements are in force in your country, please refer to the "Low pass filtering" section of the manual to see which low pass curve would fit within your required bandwidth/mask.

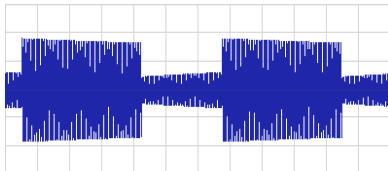
### Tilt equalisation

AM transmitters (especially older ones) might have DC blocking capacitors in the input circuits to remove DC offset. However, when presented with the processed signal resembling square wave, this high-pass filters causes the signal to tilt, producing overshoots and robbing you of modulation.

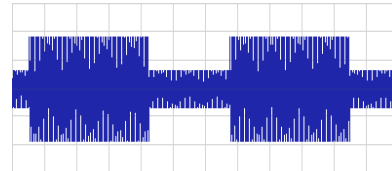
There are two things you can do to prevent this and optimise your modulation usage. The best solution is to remove (or at least increase) the capacitors in the input circuits in your transmitter. The DSPXmini-AM has no DC offset and therefore these capacitors are not necessary when DSPXmini-AM is connected directly to the transmitter.

If you for some reason, can't remove these capacitors then you can try to compensate for the tilt by using the DSPXmini-AM's built-in tilt equaliser. To do this, you need to connect the DSPXmini-AM to the transmitter, navigate to the Oscillator menu and turn the oscillator on. Set the type to square, frequency to 50 or 100 Hz and amplitude to no more than 50%. Connect the DC-coupled oscilloscope to the transmitter's RF envelope monitoring output and while observing the waveform on the scope, adjust the Tilt EQ and Tilt Gain controls to obtain a flat top waveform.

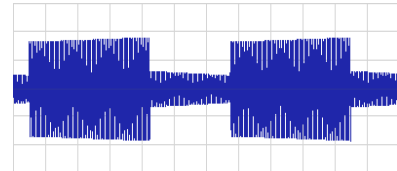
#### Tilt correction:



Square wave tilted - not enough tilt equalisation. Increase Tilt Gain and/or adjust Tilt frequency until top is flat.



Flat top square wave - correct, no further tilt equalisation needed.



Square wave tilted - too much tilt equalisation. Decrease Tilt Gain and/or adjust Tilt frequency until top is flat.

### Asymmetry

In some countries (USA, for example) stations are allowed to modulate asymmetrically (modulate positive peaks higher than negative peaks) to increase loudness. The DSPXmini-AM has the ability to change the symmetry of its clippers and clip positive peaks up to 150% while keeping the negative peaks at 100%. In order to keep the negative peaks at 100% when changing the asymmetry, a DC path in the input circuit of the transmitter is required. Otherwise the DC coupling will re-symmetrise (offset) the asymmetrically clipped signal.

If the balanced connection to the transmitter is not wired correctly or for some other reason is inverted, instead of increasing the positive peaks, negative peaks in the transmitter will be increased. To correct this you can use the polarity switch in the Output menu.

Keep in mind that while operating the clippers asymmetrically might increase the loudness, it will also increase odd harmonics (and therefore overall distortion) as well as the inter-modulation distortion. Operating clippers symmetrically will always produce cleaner and less fatiguing sound.

### Tone generator

The DSPXmini-AM has a built-in oscillator. When turned on, the oscillator will override the outputs. The oscillator can produce sine or square waves at various frequencies while amplitude is referenced to 100% modulation. You can use this oscillator to line-up output levels as well as adjust the tilt equalisation.

## GETTING THE SOUND YOU WANT

While the DSPXmini-AM can help you obtain the sound that you want we must always take into account the limitations presented by the transmission channel. The biggest problem we have is the maximum peak level that can be handled by that transmission channel.

The trade off in any audio processor is loudness vs. quality. The mark of how good a processor is how loud the processor can go while maintaining sufficient quality. It is up to you where this loudness / quality trade off point is set.

In the effort to squeeze as much bass and high frequency energy into the peak limited channel we must make compromises. If your aim is a cleaner sound and a slight loss of loudness is not important then it is easier to get the tonal characteristic you're after without distortion. Lower clipper drives will provide you with cleaner and less fatiguing sound. The choice is yours.

### More LOUDNESS

Loudness can be increased in several ways.

#### Multi-band AGC:

Increase the drives to the bands.  
Speed up the release times, making them faster.

While it is possible to create a strange response in the multi-band AGC, it is hard to produce distortion because whatever gets through the AGC is dealt with by the following peak limiters.

#### Multi-band Limiters:

Slow down the peak attack times, letting more through to the clippers.  
Speed up the release times of the average release time constants.  
Slow down the average attack time so that the peak time constants dominate the control signal providing faster control.  
Increase the master limiter drive.  
Increase the individual limiter drives.

Extra loudness can be obtained by working on only a single or a couple of the above suggestions. You are likely to run into trouble if you 'CRANK UP' all of the above settings. You are likely to generate excessive distortion in the final clippers and generate a fatiguing sound if you're not careful. Less can be more. Make small changes and compare against the settings of the factory presets if you find you have lost your way some where.

#### Final clippers:

Increase the final clipper drive and increase its hardness control to a higher number.

WE SUGGEST ONLY SMALL MODIFICATIONS FROM FACTORY PRESET SETTINGS IF YOU ARE MODIFYING LOTS OF THE PARAMETERS. IF YOU ARE ADJUSTING ONLY A COUPLE FROM THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS THEN YOU PROBABLY HAVE A BIT MORE LEE-WAY. IT IS VERY EASY TO LOSE YOUR WAY ONCE YOU START 'CRANKING' LOTS OF DIFFERENT SETTINGS.

### More CLARITY

We can obtain extra clarity and quality in several ways.

#### Multi-band AGC:

Slow down the release times, making them slower.

#### Multi-band Limiters:

Speed up the peak attack times, letting less through to the clippers.  
Slow down the release times of the average release time constants.  
Speed up the average attack time so that the average time constants dominate the control signal providing slower control.  
Decrease the master limiter drive.  
Decrease the individual limiter drives.

#### Final clippers:

Decrease the final clipper drive.

Decrease the clipper hardness control.

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### **More BASS**

We can obtain more bass in several ways.

#### **Bass Enhancement:**

Increase the peaking filter gain.  
Increase the peaking filter Q factor.

#### **Multi-band AGC:**

Increase the drive to the AGC band 1.  
Speed up the AGC band 1 release.  
Lower the AGC band 1 gate threshold, allowing more gain to be applied to low level bass waveforms.  
Consider 'force gating' the AGC band 1 so the multi-band AGC for band 1 is bypassed.

#### **Multi-band Limiters:**

Increase the band 1 and band 2 limiter drive.  
Slow down the peak attack time for band 1, letting more through to the clippers.  
Speed up the release time of the average release time constant of those bands  
Slow down the band 1 and band 2 average attack time so that the peak time constant dominates the control signal providing faster control.

#### **Bass clipper:**

Increase the bass clip level.

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### **More TREBLE (HF)**

We can obtain more high frequency energy in several ways. The first is the use of a HF Boost equalizer. It can provide as much as 20 dB of high frequency boost. The 'HF CLIPPING' and band 4 'PEAK ATTACK' are also controls that govern the amount of high frequency control distortion controlled clipping that is performed.

#### **EQ:**

Increase the HF Boost gain. Listen carefully when adjusting because you can cause pumping in the band 4 limiter by excessive high frequency boost, as well as increase distortion. Try adjusting the HF Shape control while listening on varied program material.

#### **Multi-band AGC:**

Increase the drive to the AGC band 4.  
Speed up the AGC band 4 release time, making it faster.  
Lower the band 4 gate threshold, allowing more gain to be applied to low level HF waveforms.  
Consider 'force gating' the AGC band 1 so the multi-band AGC for band 1 is bypassed.

#### **Multi-band Limiters:**

Increase the band 4 limiter drive.  
Slow down the peak attack time for band 4 and speed up the peak release time.  
Reduce band 3 to band 4 coupling.  
Set the HF clipping control to higher numbers which shifts control from the limiters to the HF clipper.

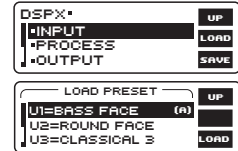
WE SUGGEST ONLY SMALL MODIFICATIONS FROM FACTORY PRESET SETTINGS IF YOU ARE MODIFYING LOTS OF THE PARAMETERS. IF YOU ARE ADJUSTING ONLY A COUPLE FROM THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS THEN YOU PROBABLY HAVE A BIT MORE LEE-WAY. IT IS VERY EASY TO LOSE YOUR WAY ONCE YOU START 'TWEAKING' LOTS OF DIFFERENT SETTINGS.

## MANAGING PRESETS (FRONT PANEL CONTROL)

Your processor has an assortment of factory presets and provision for 8 user ones. While the factory presets may not suit your tastes you will generally find one that serves as a good starting point in creating your own custom preset. The preset facilities are accessed from the three intuitive soft keys.

### Selecting a preset.

First press the 'LOAD' button and then select the preset you want with the control knob. Factory presets are prefixed with Fx where x is a number. User presets are prefixed with Ux where x is a number between 1 and 8. Once you have selected the preset you want to load you simply press the 'LOAD' button again. You can audition various presets by simply scrolling through the preset list and hitting 'LOAD' over each one you wish to listen to.

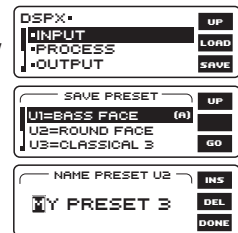


### Comparing a preset

When making processing adjustments it is often desirable to compare against the preset you are adjusting. For example you may wish to modify a factory preset and save it as a user preset. You select a factory preset and load it, making it active. You like the factory preset but want to increase the bass slightly and possibly reduce the drive into the main clipper to reduce distortion. You could modify both processing parameters and then press the 'LOAD' button. The middle button of the softkeys will change to B. Pressing this button will reload the saved preset allowing you to compare before and after your changes. The previously marked 'B' button will have now changed to a 'A' button which if pressed will return you to the adjusted preset. The other option you have if you don't press 'UP' is the 'LOAD' button, reloading the saved preset and discarding your changes. By using the button you can easily make processing adjustments quickly and hear instantly if the change is to your liking. It is very easy to forget where you are sonically so the comparison feature is very useful. You can also use the facility to make one processing parameter change at a time, adjusting it, discarding it or saving it to the preset. You can then repeat the comparison process until you are happy with all of your processing changes.

### Saving a preset

To save the current active settings to a user preset you simply press the 'SAVE' button. You can then select the user preset with the control knob and press the 'GO' button. A new screen is presented to you allowing the name of the preset to be changed. 'INSERT' and 'DELETE' hot keys are provided to speed things up. Once you are happy with the name you press the 'DONE' soft key to save the preset to the processor's memory. For speed, saving the current settings to the same active preset is as simple as pushing the same button three times as 'SAVE' selects the presets, 'GO' confirms the preset to save and 'DONE' confirms the name entry stage.



### Exporting a preset to a PC

This is handled by the remote control application.

### Importing a preset from a PC

This is handled by the remote control application.

## FACTORY PRESETS

The factory presets in the DSPXmini-AM are not supposed to be de-facto standards by any means but are starting points for you to create your own user presets. It is impossible to create presets that will suit every format and market. What is right for one market is not usually right for another. The staff at BW will be able to help you refine your sound further if none of the factory presets meet your requirement.

Version 1.01 contains the following factory presets.

### **F1 BYPASS**

This preset force gates the AGC's setting them to unity gain. The limiter and clipper thresholds are raised and drives are appropriately set so that the peak input to the DSPXmini-AM matches its peak output.

### **F2 GENERAL**

This preset is a one-size-fits-all preset and a good starting point for any format. Fair not excessive amount of processing

### **F3 GENERAL HEAVY**

A louder and more aggressive version of the General format. Aimed for more competitive sound.

### **F4 TALK**

Optimised for talk radio and intelligibility. Works good for all talk based format.

### **F5 TALK HEAVY**

A more louder and aggressive version of the Talk preset.

### **F6 NEWS**

A preset optimised for news talk. Substantial amount of processing to maintain consistency and clarity.

### **F7 SPORTS**

Designed for sports commentary. Gating configured to prevent crowd noise suck up and maintain intelligibility.

### **F8 MUSIC**

A preset designed for clean and smooth music processing.

### **F9 MUSIC OPEN**

A general music preset with medium amounts of compression and overall processing.

### **F10 MUSIC BRIGHT**

A more brighter and slightly louder preset for music based formats.

### **F11 LOUD**

The name says it all. This one is pushing the envelope while trying to mask and control distortion.

### **F12 CLASSICAL-JAZZ**

A very light and conservative processing for fine art formats.

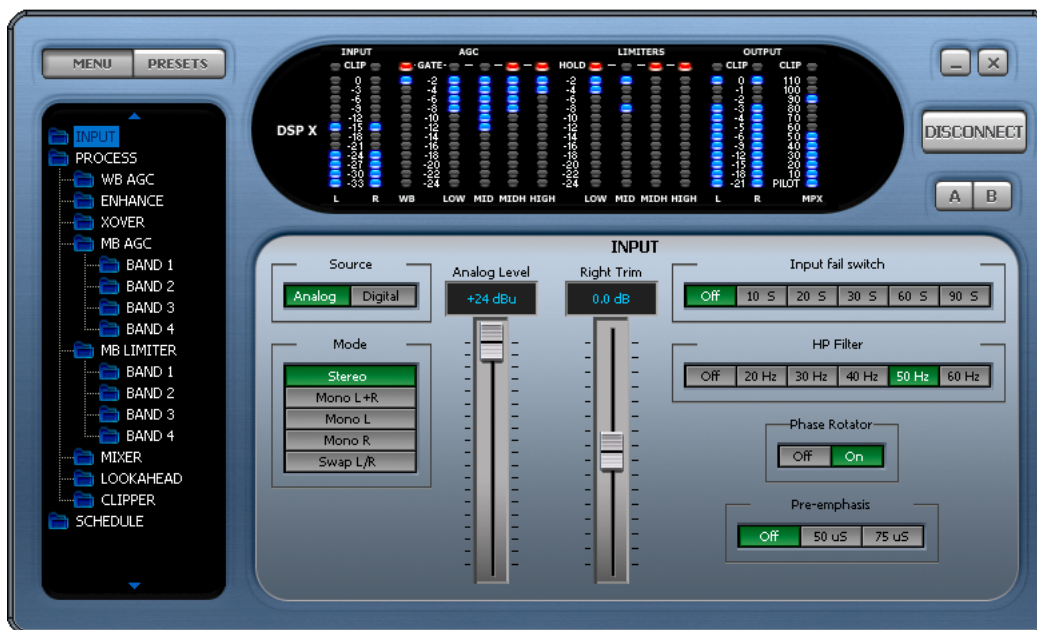


## REMOTE CONTROL OF THE DSPXmini-AM

In addition to the front panel LCD control system the DSPXmini-AM has a serial port and an ethernet/LAN port. These allow remote control of the DSPXmini-AM through a remote application program running on a windows based PC. The remote control program is available for download from [www.bwbroadcast.com](http://www.bwbroadcast.com)

The DSPXmini-AM can only talk to the serial system (RS232) or the ethernet/LAN system at any point in time so you will need to select which one of the two remote control methods you wish to use by selecting the appropriate option from the remote source parameter which is contained in the system menu accessible from the DSPXmini-AM's front panel.

If connecting via an ethernet connection you will need to set the IP address or Hostname that the DSPXmini-AM is connected at and also include the PORT number that the DSPXmini-AM has been set to use. The default port that BW use is 1203. You can leave it as is unless you have a reason to change it. Your network administrator can help you with this.



Remote application

### Serial port system

The serial port system consists of two serial ports, one on the front and the other on the rear panel. Only one of the ports can be used at any one time and the active port can be selected from the front panel LCD control system. The serial port selection parameter is located in the 'SYSTEM' menu.

Firmware (new versions of DSPXmini-AM code) will also need to be uploaded into the DSPXmini-AM via the serial port system. The BW Broadcast development team have built the serial communications XMODEM protocol. Any standard terminal program will allow you to send an update file into the DSPXmini-AM via XMODEM protocol.

### CONTROL OF THE DSPXmini-AM BY RS232 (SERIAL)

If you wish to use the RS232 port to control the DSPXmini-AM follow the steps below

1. Connect the supplied serial cable to the rear RS232 port
2. Navigate to the 'REMOTE SOURCE' parameter (also in system) and select the serial option
3. Run the DSPXmini-AM remote application and you will be presented with a connection screen (see image). Select the COM port on your computer that you have plugged the serial cable into
4. A password needs to be entered, regardless of password settings on the DSPXmini-AM itself. A password still needs to be entered even if the passwords on the DSPXmini-AM have been disabled.
5. Click connect on the application and you should receive a 'please wait' box while the information is retrieved from the DSPXmini-AM. Once connected you are then free to control the DSPXmini-AM with the remote application. Further information on the remote application is contained on the following pages. If the DSPXmini-AM remote application does not connect or disconnects after a few seconds then it could be that the password is incorrect. The default password for the DSPXmini-AM is 3779. You are free to change these on the DSPXmini-AM itself (see information on password control elsewhere in this manual)



**Remote application connection screen**

### **NET/LAN PORT**

The DSPXmini-AM is equipped with a NET/LAN port for ease of remote control, setup and monitoring.

### **CONTROL OF THE DSPXmini-AM BY THE NET/LAN PORT**

If you wish to use the NET/LAN port to control the DSPXmini-AM follow the steps below

1. Connect a cat 5 cable to the RJ45 port on the DSPXmini-AM and plug this into your network hub/switch. A Xover cable can be used to connect directly to a PC if you don't have a switch or hub.
2. . Navigate to the 'REMOTE SOURCE' parameter contained in the system menu on the DSPXmini-AM and select the Network option.
3. Run the DSPXmini-AM remote application and you will be presented with a connection screen (see below) . Select the Ethernet option.
4. A password needs to be entered, regardless of password settings on the DSPXmini-AM itself. A password still needs to be entered even if the passwords on the DSPXmini-AM have been disabled.
5. Click connect on the application and you should receive a 'please wait' box while the information is retrieved from the DSPXmini-AM. Once connected you are then free to control the DSPXmini-AM with the remote application. Further information on the remote application is contained on the following pages. If the DSPXmini-AM remote application does not connect or disconnects after a few seconds then it could be that the password is incorrect. The default password for the DSPXmini-AM is 3779. You are free to change these on the DSPXmini-AM itself (see information on password control elsewhere in this manual)

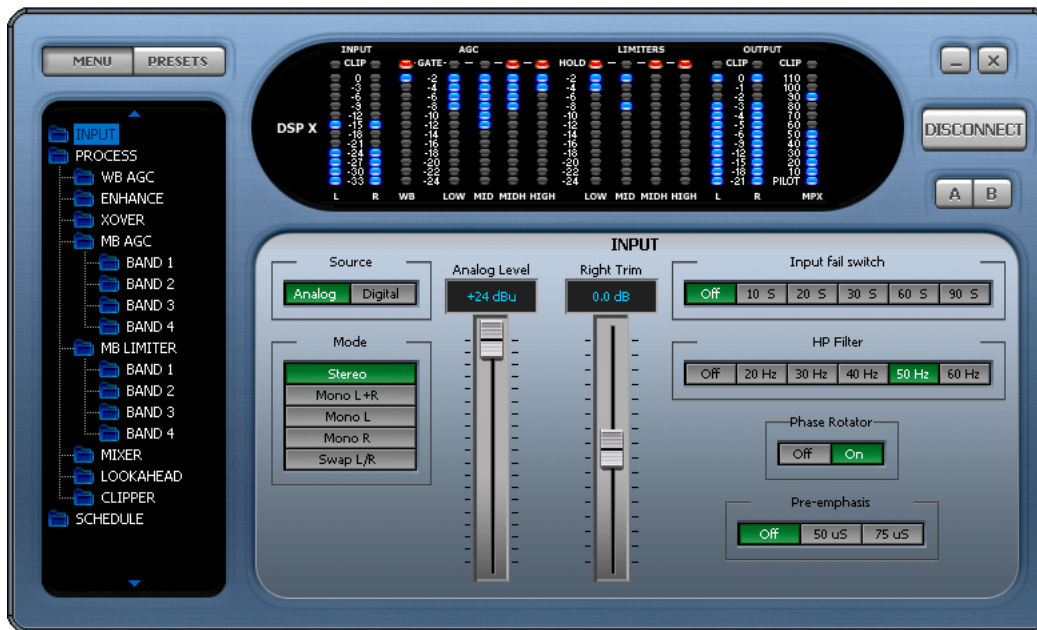
### **PASSWORD ACCESS**

The DSPXmini-AM contains two levels of password control, a high level password which blocks access to all areas of the DSPXmini-AM and an 'Output' level password that allows access to all areas of the DSPXmini-AM except the output menus that contain the output mode and level settings. The 'Output' level password could be given to programme controllers to adjust the processing knowing that the transmission will remain compliant as there is no way for the user to adjust the peak output level of the DSPXmini-AM.

These passwords can only be set from the DSPXmini-AM front panel and are located in the system menu. The password box is located on the connection screen to the right of host and port input boxes.

The default (factory shipped) passwords for the two locks are '3779'. The remote application will always default to this when it is run, unless you change it. Some users may find the output lock set to '0000' Try this is 3779 does not let you access the output menus.





Remote application connected

When the DSPXmini-AM is connected the LED's will show activity and the main controls window should show processing controls, depending on what option is selected on the menu tree located to the left of the screen. The DSPXmini-AM remote control application has three windows. The left hand contains the navigation/preset window. The top shows the LED metering while the bottom right contains the main controls window that is populated with the appropriate controls for the part of the processing that is selected in the menu tree.

At the top left of the application you have the menu/preset toggle buttons. These change the contents of the left hand window from the DSPXmini-AM menu tree to the preset list. The top right of the application contains the minimise and close icons, the connect / disconnect button and the A/B buttons which will be covered shortly.

### NAVIGATING THE PROCESSING STRUCTURE AND MAKING PROCESSING ADJUSTMENTS

Navigating through the processing structures of the DSPXmini-AM is very simple. When connected click the menu button (top left) if not already depressed. You should then see the menu tree in the left hand window (see above image).

You can now navigate through the menu tree and see the controls that are contained in that menu appear in the main controls windows. The example above shows the controls that are contained in the input menu. Changing the processing is as simple as adjusting the sliders and buttons.

### WORKING WITH PRESETS

The DSPXmini-AM remote application makes it easy to load, save and change presets. Click the preset button (top left) if not already depressed. You should then see the preset list in the left hand window (see image).

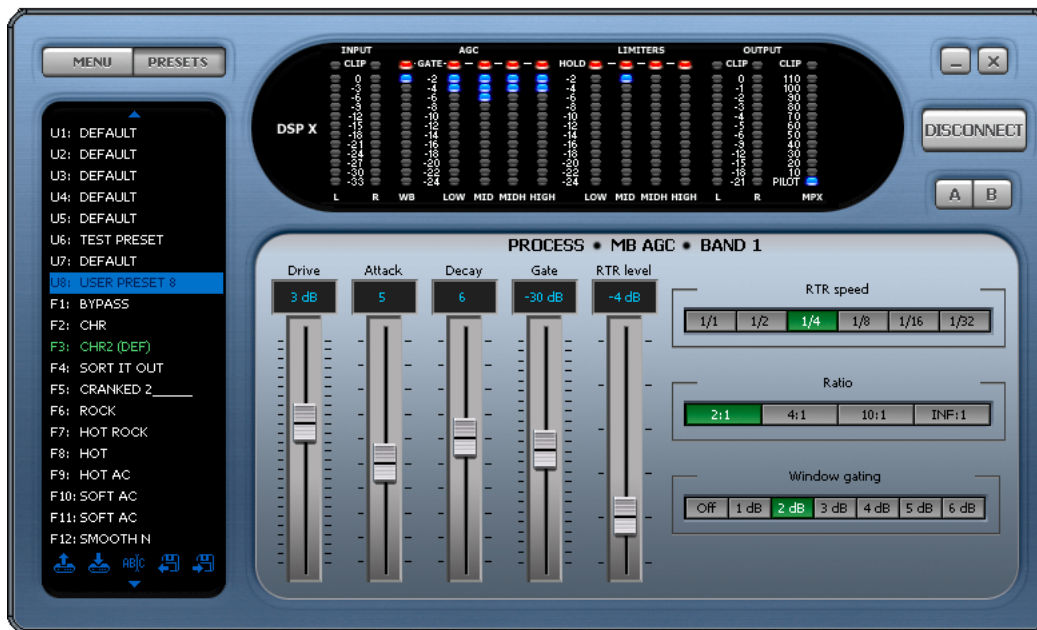
#### Understanding the preset list

The preset list contains all of the presets contained in the DSPXmini-AM. The user presets are prefixed U1 to U8 and the factory presets from F1 onwards. You may need to use the scroll arrows to view all of them as they won't all fit in the window at one time.

It is important that you understand the following terminology and how the various presets are displayed in the window if you want to use the preset window correctly and efficiently.

The currently 'on air' preset is always marked in green.

The preset marked in green will also have a label appended to the preset name. This can be (DEF), (TR) and (DP) and these stand for the default preset, daypart and triggered presets.



Preset window shown

If you are not using dayparting or the external trigger port the default preset will always be the 'on air' preset and it will be marked in the preset list with a (DEF) which appends to the preset name. If the scheduler (dayparting) or the remote trigger interface has changed the preset the (DEF) marked preset may not be the one that is on the air. There are two additional identifiers to mark these occurrences. (DP) for Daypart and (TR) for remote trigger. If a daypart of trigger occurs the (TR) or (DP) will appear next to the name and the preset name will change to green to indicate that it is 'on air' and has overridden the (DEF) default preset. When the daypart or trigger finishes control will always return to the default (DEF) preset.

It is possible to have A (DEF)(TR)(DP) situation where a remote trigger forces 'on air' a user preset which has also been triggered by a daypart and that preset happened to be the default preset. Unlikely but possible.

Various preset operations are possible including changing the default preset, saving a preset to a user preset location, changing the name as well as PC file operations to backup or share presets with other DSPXmini-AM users. To perform an operation you will need to select a preset by clicking on to the name in the list. This will highlight the preset with a blue bar. This does not change the preset or affect anything on the air. All this blue selection bar indicates if that this is the preset that we want to perform an operation on. We have two methods of performing the operation on the preset. The first method is to click one of the icons at the bottom of the window. These are from left to right, Load preset, Save preset, Rename preset, Load from PC, Save to PC. The other method is to right click over the preset where you will be presented with a drop down menu containing the same options.

#### Load preset

Load preset will change the default preset to the one selected. This usually means that this preset will become 'on air'. The exception to this is when the default preset is being overridden by a daypart or remote trigger. In this case the DSPXmini-AM will 'on air' the selected preset when the daypart or trigger hands back control to the default preset.

#### Save preset

Save preset will save the current on-air preset to the highlighted user preset position. You can not write over a factory preset.

#### Rename preset

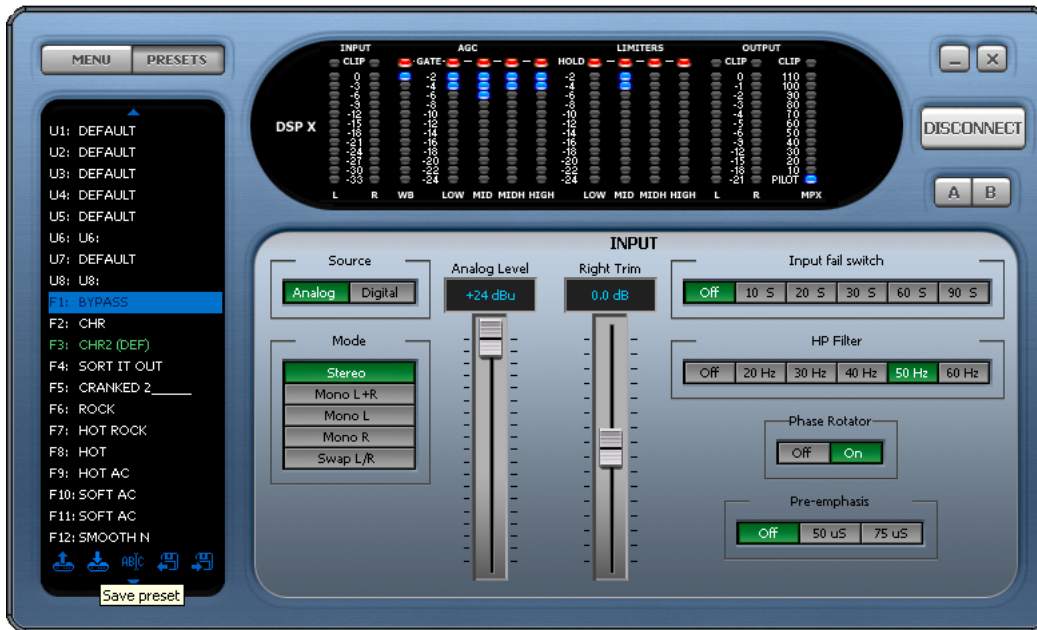
Rename preset allows the user preset name to be edited. You are restricted to 15 characters.

#### Saving presets to PC

This option will pop up the standard windows save dialog box. You can select a file name and location for the preset to be saved under. The preset that is saved is the currently highlighted (in blue) preset, not the one that is currently 'on-air'.

### Loading presets from a PC

This option will pop up the standard windows load dialog box. You can browse to and select a preset file to be loaded into the DSPXmini-AM. The preset location that is loaded is the currently highlighted (in blue) preset, not the one that is currently 'on-air'. You can only load into a user preset.

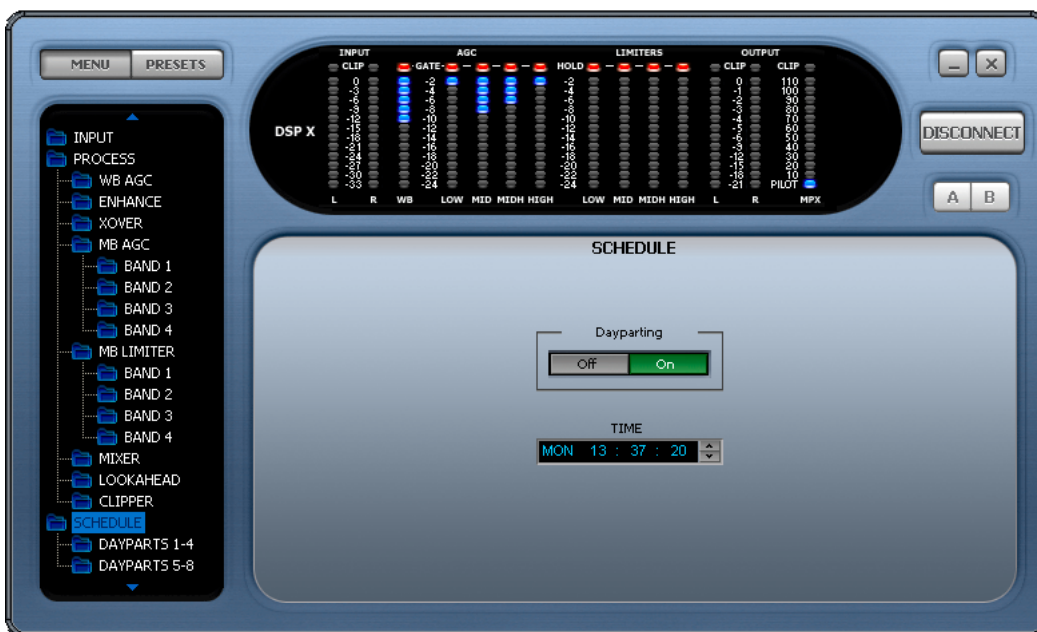


Preset icons

### SCHEDULING WITH THE REMOTE APPLICATION

Using the menu tree to change the processing is quite simple and really doesn't need a lot of explanation. The scheduling screens that controls the dayparting may appear daunting so we are going to give you a quick guide to using it.

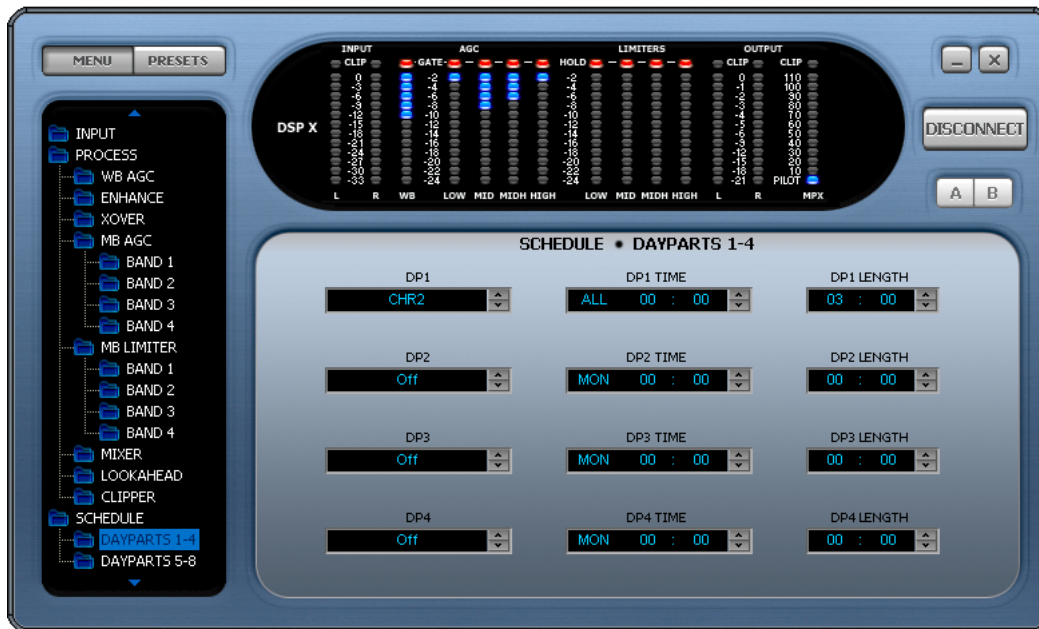
There are three menu locations for controlling scheduling. The first location is shown in the screen shot below and it contains the ON/OFF and time setting control. The two menu locations below it access two banks of four dayparts which make up the 8 dayparts contained in the DSPXmini-AM.



Scheduling

On the daypart windows you have four dayparts. Each has three parameters. The left hand box contains the name of the preset that you want this daypart to switch to. This box also has the ability to turn the daypart OFF

by clicking down on the arrows until you reach the off option. If off is currently selected you can click up to rotate through the user and factory presets. The middle box contains the time and day that the daypart will start at. To select day, hour or minute click on the appropriate part of the box before using the up and down arrows. The day part of the time also has an ALL option. This means that the daypart will occur on every day. The right most box contains the length of the daypart in hours and minutes. Like the start time of the daypart you will need to click into the appropriate part of the box before clicking the up/down arrows.



**Scheduling**

The dayparts can be layered so that one can override another. Let's say the default preset was U1:MAIN PRESET and this was on the air all of the time. We want to change the preset from 7AM to 10AM every day of the week to F2:CHR and then from 10AM to 12PM we want U4:NEW PRESET and then back to F2:CHR until 5PM.

Rather than setup the dayparts as  
**DPO: F2:CHR - ALL 07:00 - 03:00** (factory preset 2 to run from 7am everyday for 3 hours)  
**DP1: U4:NEW PRESET - ALL 10:00 - 02:00** (user preset 4 to run from 10am everyday for 2 hours)  
**DP2: F2:CHR - ALL 12:00 - 05:00** (factory preset 2 to run from 12pm everyday for 5 hours)

We could instead setup the dayparts as  
**DPO: F2:CHR - ALL 07:00 - 10:00** (factory preset 2 to run from 7am everyday for 10 hours)  
**DP1: U4:NEW PRESET - ALL 10:00 - 02:00** (user preset 4 to run from 10am everyday for 2 hours)  
 which saves a daypart position.

By carefully selecting the default preset and overlaying dayparts we are able switch presets significantly more than you first think you will be able to.

**A/B COMPARISON FEATURE**

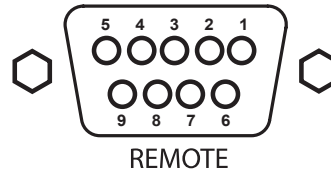
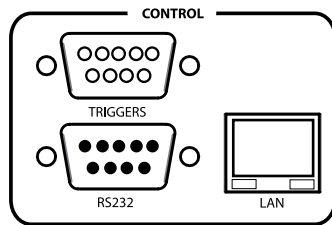
The Remote application has two buttons labelled A and B that are located just below the connection button. These buttons allow you to compare changes you have made to the processing against the saved preset. When you load a preset the buttons should be greyed out but as soon as you make any processing changes these buttons will become active. By selecting the B button you can temporarily revert back to the saved preset. During this time all the processing controls will grey out to indicate you are in a compare mode. To return to the settings that you have been adjusting click the A button and the processing controls will 'un-grey' If at any time you want to revert to the saved preset and lose your adjustment just reload the preset from the preset selection window.

The A/B feature makes it easy to build up your own presets by being able to easily compare before and after processing adjustments. We hope you find it useful.

## REMOTE TRIGGER PORT

The system menu contains the remote trigger port option from where it can be enabled or disabled.

If enabled the remote trigger port on the processor allows you to select any of the first 8 user presets by pulling one of 8 pins on the trigger port socket low. The rear panel trigger port socket is a 9 pin male D-type whose connections are shown below.



### REMOTE TRIGGER PORT PIN-OUT

<b>PIN 1</b>	USER PRESET 4
<b>PIN 2</b>	USER PRESET 3
<b>PIN 3</b>	USER PRESET 2
<b>PIN 4</b>	USER PRESET 1
<b>PIN 5</b>	EARTH RETURN
<b>PIN 6</b>	USER PRESET 8
<b>PIN 7</b>	USER PRESET 7
<b>PIN 8</b>	USER PRESET 6
<b>PIN 9</b>	USER PRESET 5

The trigger port socket contains an earth return connection pin for the 8 opto-isolated trigger pins. When the trigger pins are connected to the earth return pin they will change the currently active preset to the user preset triggered by that pin. If more than one pin is pulled low at the same time the pin with the lowest number will take priority. E.G. if all pins are pulled low trigger 1 will take priority. Once the trigger pin disconnects from the earth return connection the processor will return processing to the normally active preset.

Relays, contact closures, open collector and other hard wiring arrangements can be used to perform the appropriate connection between the trigger port pin and the earth return pin.

If you wish to trigger a factory preset you will need to copy that factory preset to a user preset first.



## SECURITY CODE LOCKS

The system menu contains the security code lock options from where they can be enabled or disabled.

The DSPXmini-AM has two code locks, the main full lock and the output lock. When enabled the full code lock prevents editing of the DSPXmini-AM parameters. When enabled the output lock restricts access to the output menu section of the DSPXmini-AM. This is useful when you want to stop someone from being able to adjust peak output levels which could cause your broadcast to be non-compliant with your regulatory bodies transmission specs. For example you may not want a programme director to be able to adjust the multiplex level into a transmitter but you do want them to be able to adjust the processing.

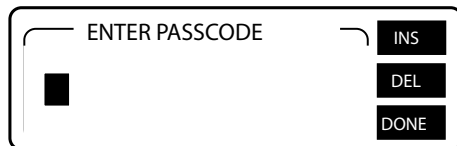
The security code locks if enabled will engage after 4 minutes of no activity on the front panel control system. This time has been chosen as a compromise between having the system lock you out when adjusting processing parameters and a short enough period of time to lock the unit after you walk away from the DSPXmini-AM.

The DSPXmini-AM is factory shipped with the factory default lock codes of 3779. Some users may find that the output lock is set to a default of '0000' so try this if you cant access the output menus with 3779.

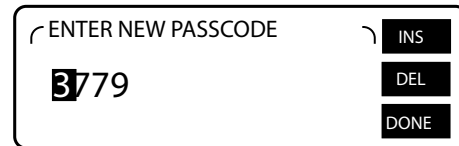
**Enabling the security code lock feature:** Navigate to the system menu and set the code lock option to enabled. Confirm the current password. The lock will engage after four minutes of no front panel control system activity.

**Disabling the security code lock feature:** Navigate to the system menu and set the code lock option to 'disabled'. Confirm the current password.

**Changing the lock codes:** Once locked the DSPXmini-AM will not allow processing adjustments (or access to the output menu). The lock code can be entered with the use of the rotary encoder and the GO soft key can be pressed to confirm entry and proceed. If unsuccessful you will be required to try again. If successful the DSPXmini-AM will allow you to re-confirm the code or change it. This is where you may want to change the factory default code if you have not already done so. The soft keys will allow you to confirm the change or accept the previous code and the DSPXmini-AM should then be unlocked.



Entering the pass code



Confirming or changing the pass code

### Forgotten DSPXmini-AM lock code:

Contact DSPXmini-AM support and request the procedure to reset the DSPXmini-AM lock code back to factory default. In resetting the DSPXmini-AM code lock you will also wipe clean your user presets. We recommend that you export (back-up) your user presets to be on the safe side.

The easiest thing is not to forget the unlock code or to leave it at factory default. The factory default code is easy to remember, just punch in the first four letters of your favourite audio processor on a telephone keypad.

## CLOCK BASED CONTROL (DAYPARTING)

Your processor contains a battery backed up real time clock that can maintain the current time and date even when the power has been removed. This allows users to switch between presets at specific times of the day or week. This is very useful on a multi-format radio station where one processing preset may not suit all of the formats of music that are broadcast.

The easiest way to control the dayparting is with the remote control application which is described elsewhere in this manual but the use through the front panel menu system is described here.

The schedule menu contains the following options:

- The TIME
- Daypart ON/OFF control
- Dayparts 1-4
- Dayparts 5-8

### Setting the time (the processor's system clock)

Setting the time is quite simple. Select the Day, Hour, Minute or Seconds and rotate the Knob until you get to the desired setting. The Seconds can not be adjusted, only reset to 0 seconds as the knob is rotated.

There is also a clock calibration parameter, which allows a +/- 3 second correction factor to be applied at midnight each day to account for real time clock inaccuracies.

**Daypart ON/OFF** enables or disables the dayparting.

The **dayparts 1-4 and 5-8** options drop you down into two further menus. Each containing four dayparts. For each daypart you can enable or disable it and with the same control set the preset to switch to when the daypart triggers (when the daypart start time matches the system clock).

You can also set the start time (trigger) of each daypart and set the length that the daypart shall be (the time the trigger shall remain in force). The start time has a day option and this can be set to ALL which would mean that the daypart would trigger every day at the specified time. If the length is set so that the trigger will carry across midnight then the trigger will stop at midnight. TRIGGERS DO NOT CARRY ACROSS DAYS.

The dayparts can be layered so that one can override another. Let's say the default preset was U1:MAIN PRESET and this was on the air all of the time. We want to change the preset from 7AM to 10AM every day of the week to F2:CHR and then from 10AM to 12PM we want U4:NEW PRESET and then back to F2:CHR until 5PM.

Rather than setup the dayparts as

**DPO: F2:CHR - ALL 07:00 - 03:00** (factory preset 2 to run from 7AM everyday for 3 hours)  
**DP1: U4:NEW PRESET - ALL 10:00 - 02:00** (user preset 4 to run from 10am everyday for 2 hours)  
**DP2: F2:CHR - ALL 12:00 - 05:00** (factory preset 2 to run from 12pm everyday for 5 hours)

We could instead setup the dayparts as

**DPO: F2:CHR - ALL 07:00 - 10:00** (factory preset 2 to run from 7AM everyday for 10 hours)  
**DP1: U4:NEW PRESET - ALL 10:00 - 02:00** (user preset 4 to run from 10am everyday for 2 hours)  
which saves a daypart position.

By carefully selecting the default preset and overlaying dayparts we are able switch presets significantly more than you first think you will be able to.

# SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications apply for measurements from analog left/right input to the analog left/right output. Measurements apply to AM mode of operation.

**Frequency Response (Bypass Mode):**  $\pm 0.10$  dB, 2.0 Hz–10 kHz or as set with an adjustable low-pass filter.

**Noise:** Output noise floor will depend upon on the processor settings. The maximum dynamic range is determined by the dynamic range of the A/D Converter, which is 107 dB. The dynamic range of the digital signal processing is 144 dB.

**Processing Sample Rate:** 48 kHz - 768 kHz depending on the processing stage.

**Processing Resolution:** Internal processing has 24 bit (fixed point) or higher resolution.

**Low pass filter:** 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5 or 10.0 kHz, user adjustable. The processor can be set up to comply with all ITU-R and NRSC spectrum masks.

**High pass filter:** 2nd order Butterworth, adjustable to 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 Hz.

## Analog Audio Input

**Configuration:** Stereo or mono from left, mono from right or mono from sum.

**Impedance:**  $>10k$ , load impedance, electronically balanced.

**Nominal Input Level:** Software adjustable from 0 dBu to +24 dBu peak.

**Maximum Input Level:** +24 dBu

**Connectors:** XLR female. Pin 1 chassis ground, pins 2 (+) and 3 (-) electronically balanced, floating and symmetrical.

**A/D Conversion:** 48 kHz 24 bit 128x oversampled delta sigma converter with linear-phase anti-aliasing filter.

**Filtering:** RFI filtered.

## Analog Audio Output

**Configuration:** Stereo

**Source Impedance:** 10 Ohm, electronically balanced and floating.

**Load Impedance:** 600 Ohm or greater, balanced or unbalanced.

**Output Level (100% peak modulation):** Adjustable from  $-22$  dBu to +14 dBu peak, into 600 Ohms or greater load.

**Signal-to-Noise:**  $\geq 90$  dB unweighted (bypass mode, 20 Hz–10 kHz bandwidth, referenced to 100% modulation).

**L / R Crosstalk:**  $\leq -70$  dB, 20 Hz–10 kHz.

**Distortion:**  $\leq 0.01\%$  THD (bypass mode, 20 Hz–10 kHz bandwidth)

**Connectors:** XLR male. Pin 1 chassis ground, pins 2 (+) and 3 (-) electronically balanced, floating and symmetrical.

**D/A Conversion:** 48 kHz 24 bit 128x oversampled

**Filtering:** RFI filtered.

## Digital Audio Input

**Configuration:** AES/EBU Stereo, 24 bit resolution, software selection of stereo or mono from left, mono from right or mono from sum.

**Sampling Rate:** 32, 44.1, 48, 88.2, or 96 kHz, automatically selected.

**Connector:** XLR female. Pin 1 chassis ground, pins 2 and 3 transformer balanced and floating, 110 ohm impedance.

**Filtering:** RFI filtered.

## Digital Audio Output

**Configuration:** Stereo per AES/EBU standard

**Sample Rate:** Internal free running at 32, 44.1 or 48 KHz selected in software. Can also be synced to the AES/EBU digital input at 32, 44.1 or 48 kHz.

**Connector:** XLR-type. Pin 1 chassis ground, pins 2 and 3 transformer balanced and floating, 110 ohm impedance.



**Output Level (100% peak modulation):** –12.0 to 0.0 dBfs software controlled.  
**Filtering:** RFI filtered.

#### **Remote Control**

**Configuration:** Serial communication over TCP/IP network or direct serial connection. Serial cable supplied with the unit.

**USB Port:** B type connector (front panel)

**Serial Port:** DB9 (rear panel) 19200 kbps, RFI suppressed

**Ethernet Port:** 10 Mbit/sec on RJ45 female connector, RFI suppressed

**Remote Control (trigger port):** DB9 opto-isolated and floating. Eight pull low inputs.

#### **Other**

**Voltage:** 100–240 VAC, 50–60 Hz, 25 VA.

**Connector:** IEC, detachable 3-wire power cord supplied, RFI suppressed.

**Grounding:** Circuit ground is independent of chassis ground, and can be isolated or connected with a rear panel switch.

**Dimensions (W x H x D):** 44mm x 482mm x 200mm / 1.7 in x 19 in x 7,9 in (1U rack height)

**Shipping weight:** 4.5 kg / 9 lbs

# DSPXmini-AM v101 preset sheet

	Preset 1	Preset 2	Preset 3	Preset 4
<b>INPUT</b>				
SOURCE				
ANALOG LEVEL		dBu	dBu	dBu
RIGHT TRIM		dB	dB	dB
INPUT MODE				
HPF		Hz	Hz	Hz
<b>PROCESS</b>				
<b>EQ</b>				
BASS PEAK GAIN		dB	dB	dB
BASS PEAK FREQ		Hz	Hz	Hz
BASS PEAK Q				
HF SHAPE				
HF GAIN		dB	dB	dB
<b>BAND 1</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
ATTACK				
DECAY				
GATE		dB	dB	dB
<b>BAND 2</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
ATTACK				
DECAY				
GATE		dB	dB	dB
<b>BAND 3</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
ATTACK				
DECAY				
GATE		dB	dB	dB
<b>BAND 4</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
ATTACK				
DECAY				
GATE		dB	dB	dB
<b>MB LIMITER</b>				
MASTER DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
<b>BAND 1</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
PEAK ATTACK				
PEAK DECAY				
AVERAGE ATTACK				
AVERAGE DECAY				
<b>BAND 2</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
PEAK ATTACK				
PEAK DECAY				
AVERAGE ATTACK				
AVERAGE DECAY				
<b>BAND 3</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
PEAK ATTACK				
PEAK DECAY				
AVERAGE ATTACK				
AVERAGE DECAY				
<b>BAND 4</b>				
DRIVE		dB	dB	dB
PEAK ATTACK				
PEAK DECAY				
COUPLING B3>B4				
HF CLIPPING				
<b>MIXER</b>				
B1 MIX LEVEL		dB	dB	dB
B2 MIX LEVEL		dB	dB	dB
B3 MIX LEVEL		dB	dB	dB

B4 MIX LEVEL		dB		dB		dB		dB
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**CLIPPER**

BASS CLIP LEVEL		dB		dB		dB		dB
MAIN CLIP DIST CTRL								
FINESSE								
HARDNESS								
MAIN CLIP DRIVE		dB		dB		dB		dB

**OUTPUT**

LOW PASS FILTER		kHz		kHz		kHz		kHz
TILT EQ		dB		dB		dB		dB
TILT FREQ		Hz		Hz		Hz		Hz
ASYMMETRY		%		%		%		%
POLARITY								



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